

Session 6

**Why
how
I
the**

**and
should
read
Bible**

The Bible is the most...

- Popular
- Powerful
- Precious (Psalm 19:10)

... book in the world.

“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every **word** that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4).

1. BRINGING REVELATION - GOD HAS SPOKEN

- Bible: collection of books by 40+ authors over 1600 years
- Inspired: God-breathed

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

But what about difficulties in the Bible?

- Jesus is the interpretive key
- It’s authoritative (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
- Practical wisdom:
 - Guidelines for living
 - Guidance for good decisions

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2. BUILDING RELATIONSHIP – GOD SPEAKS

The Bible is like a love letter from God:

- To those exploring faith (Romans 10:17, John 20:31)
- To those who are Christians
 - Become like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Joy and peace in the midst of a storm (Psalm 23:5)
 - Guidance (Psalm 119:105)
 - Health/healing (Proverbs 4:20–22)
 - Defense against spiritual attack (Matthew 4:1–11)
 - Power (Hebrews 4:12)
 - Cleansing (John 15:3)

**“Reading the Bible
generates life. It produces
change. It heals hurts.
It builds character. It
transforms circumstances.
It imparts joy. It overcomes
adversity. It defeats
temptation. It infuses
hope. It releases power.
It cleanses the mind.”**

RICK WARREN

3. HOW CAN WE HEAR GOD SPEAK THROUGH THE BIBLE

- Make a plan
 - Find a time
 - Find a place (“a solitary place,” Mark 1:35)
- Find a pattern
 - Ask God to speak:
 - Read a short passage
 - Bible reading notes
 - Bible in One Year app – bibleinoneyear.org
 - Ask yourself:
 - What does it say to me?
 - What does it mean to me?
 - How does it apply to me?
- Respond in prayer
- Put it into practice (Matthew 7:24)

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RECOMMENDED READING

Why Trust the Bible?
Amy Orr-Ewing

30 Days
Nicky Gumbel

The Bible (*The Message* is an acceptable paraphrase)

NIV Alpha Bible in One Year

Read the daily Bible in One Year commentary by Nicky Gumbel at **bibleinoneyear.org** or download the app from the App Store.

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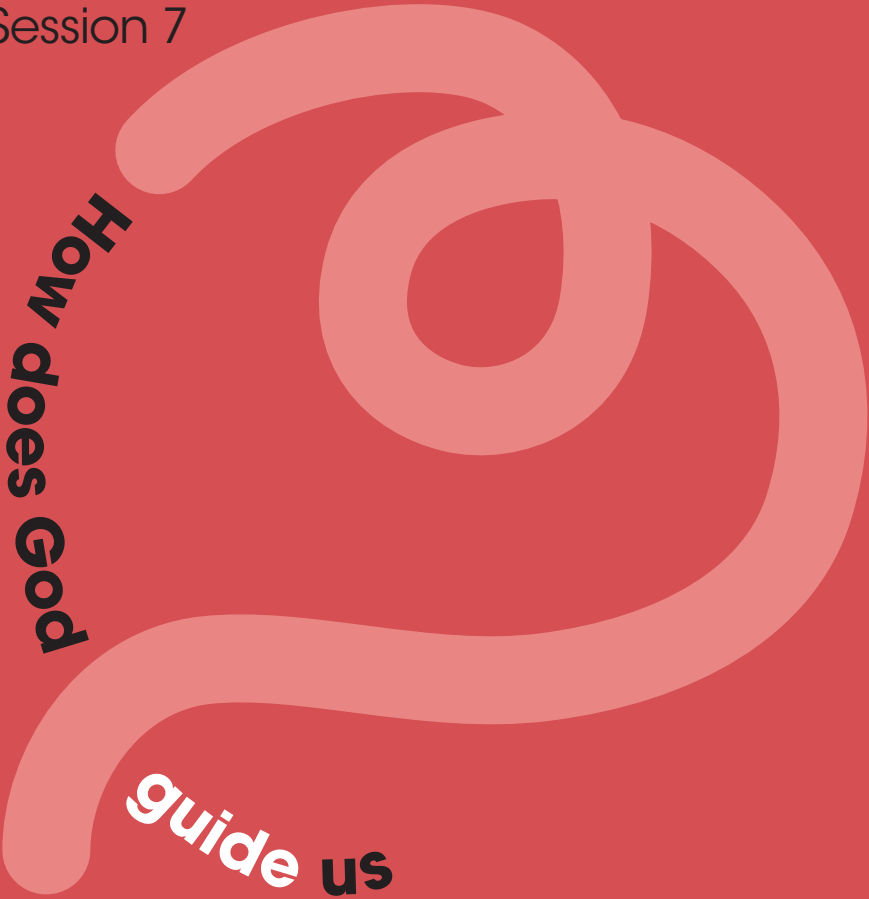
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Session 7

How does God

guide us



“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”
(Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

Why involve God in the decisions we make?

- God promises to guide us.
 - (Psalm 32:8)
 - (John 10:3–4, 27)

- God has a good plan for our lives.
 - (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - (Romans 12:2)
 - (John 10:10, 15)

How does God guide us?

1. COMMANDING SCRIPTURE

- General will
 - General instruction for marriage, work, money, children, elderly relatives (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105, 130–133)

- Primary calling
 - To love God
 - To love others
 - To become like Jesus

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2. COMPELLING SPIRIT

- God speaks as you pray (Acts 13:1–3)
- Strong desire to do something
 - “It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13)
- Sometimes He guides in more unusual ways
 - Prophecy, for example, Agabus (Acts 11:27–28; 21:10–11)
 - Dreams (Matthew 1:20)
 - Visions/pictures (Acts 16:10)
 - Angels (Genesis 18; Matthew 2:19; Acts 12:7)
 - Audible voice (1 Samuel 3:4–14)

3. COUNSEL OF THE SAINTS

- “... the wise listen to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15)
- “Plans are established by seeking advice.” (Proverbs 20:18)
- Need for testing (1 John 4:1)
 - Is it in line with the Bible?
 - Is it loving? (1 John 4:16)
 - Is it strengthening, encouraging and comforting?
(1 Corinthians 14:3)
 - Does it bring the peace of God? (Colossians 3:15)

Ultimately, we are responsible for our decisions, but it is a blessing to have others to talk to about the decisions we are making.

4. COMMON SENSE

- “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” (2 Timothy 2:7)

**“God’s promises
of guidance were not
given to save us the
problem of thinking.”**

JOHN STOTT

5. CIRCUMSTANTIAL SIGNS

- “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)
- “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 37:5)
- Sometimes God closes doors. (Acts 16:7)
- Sometimes God opens doors. (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- Sometimes we need to persevere despite the circumstances and trust God.
- Be patient.
- We all make mistakes—God forgives. (Joel 2:25)

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RECOMMENDED READING

Chasing the Dragon
Jackie Pullinger

Dotted lines for writing.