BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL

DEAR READER,

As a church, we would like to take a moment to welcome you on this amazing journey diving into God's word. We know reading the Bible can sometimes feel intimidating or scary, so we want to come alongside you in this amazing endeavor. At Sharon we believe that the Bible is for everyone, not just those in ministry or those that preach or lead small groups—God gave all of us his word as a gift and a means to know Him more and more, no matter where we are in life.

We pray that this journal serves as a tool that allows you to truly know Jesus and to know Him deeply, because true joy and freedom are found in the fountain of Jesus. Use this as a prayer journal, a notebook as you read, and a resource as you spend more and more time in the presence of God.

We are with you in this and can't wait to hear how God's word has impacted you—please use our staff and the community of believers at Sharon as a resource as you read, learn, and sit at the feet of Jesus.

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With the Love of Christ,

Sharon Church elders & Staff

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At Sharon we use the "HEAR" Bible Study Method and would recommend it for anyone looking to better understand scripture. This method uses a mixture of journaling and other steps to move us from passive bystanders to active followers and students of Jesus.

What is the HEAR method?

HEAR stands for . . .

HIGHLIGHT: Highlight the verse(s) that stood out to you. This is also a good spot to get the main information together: Name of the book, the passage of scripture you're studying, the verse(s) that spoke most to you, and maybe coming up with a title for the passage you are reading.

EXPLAIN: Explain the passage in its original context. Ask yourself the simple questions of "Who?", "What?", "When?", "Where?", "Why?", and "How?". This is also a great time to try to grasp the greater context of the book and how this passage fits into that message.

APPLY: Apply the text to your current context, today. Be sure to keep the truth the same as in your "Explain" portion, but simply ask yourself how that truth can apply or help you today.

RESPOND: Respond to the truth in the text. This can be through prayer, confession, or even steps of application. Write each of these in a journal each day and take time to pray through what you read each day.

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HIGHLIGHT

v. 13-15: "Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water I give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'"

v. 26: "Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'"

FULLY KNOWN, FULLY LOVED

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EXPLAIN

Jesus is speaking to a woman who is an outcast and seems to be carrying a very heavy burden. Jesus knows all of her issues and yet still offers her the Living water that she has been chasing her whole life. He reveals himself to her and gives her grace instead of guilt; joy instead of shame; and hope instead of fear. She is fully known and still fully loved by Jesus.

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APPLY

I don't have to be perfect or put together for Jesus to love me. Through His death on the cross, I am able to give Him everything that I have—the good, the bad, the ugly, the wretched, and the repulsive—and I can have confidence that Jesus isn't going anywhere! There is no sin that I can hide from God, and there is no sin that casts me outside the love and grace of Jesus.

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RESPOND

"Jesus, Lord of my life and savior of my soul, please make your grace and love real to me. Would you, in your power, tear down the walls and barriers I've built up over the years and give me the strength and grace to give you all of myself. Help me see that you love me because I am yours, not because I'm perfect or because I have it together. Hold tightly to my heart and give me the grace and faith to hold tightly to your hand. Amen."

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