

# Bible Study

## Explode Your Bible

by Rebekah Freed

### Summary:

Explode Your Bible is a series dedicated to helping students mark their Bibles in a way that can help them use God's Word in their everyday lives. They will not only be able to find verses that pertain to life situations more easily, but also will learn how to share the verses with those around them. They also will be reminded of techniques previously learned to study God's Word as well as be given more ideas of how to reflect on what God is telling them. Students will be challenged to be in God's Word each day in ways that are applicable and accessible to their lives.

### Goals:

- Help students make God's Word more accessible and applicable in their lives
- Help students understand the power in God's Word to challenge, comfort and guide us through life
- Help students get more familiar with navigating the Bible
- Teaching students how to find verses that are applicable to life issues
- Teaching students how to use the verses they've marked to share their faith with others

### Supplies Needed:

- 1 Explode Your Bible Kit per student which includes:
  - A Bible
  - 1 Explode Your Bible Packet
  - 6 sheets of Avery® Assorted Removable See-Through Color Dots 5473, 3/4" Round
  - 1 Ultra Fine Sharpie Permanent Mark (Dark Color)
  - Scissors
- 1 Set of the Lessons for each Small Group Leader
- *Optional: Posters or bookmarks of the Books of the Bible to help in the marking process, especially if students are unfamiliar with navigating the Bible*

### Facilitator/Small Group Leader Preparation:

An important thing to keep in mind while preparing as a leader and facilitator of the Explode Your Bible series is how you talk about the usefulness of marking Bibles in this way. It is easy, especially for high school students, to come out of something like this and see the Bible simply as a go-to guide that just gives the "right" answer instead of something that's alive and active in their lives that leads them into deeper relationship with Jesus. The problem with this comes when they find themselves in a situation where there isn't a clear-cut answer or they have stepped outside of God's plan in a specific area. This could then increase frustration regarding relevance to life rather than help in that area. As you prepare to lead, I encourage you to read Andy Blanks' blog post called, "Your Students' View of the Bible Starts with You," found here: <https://youthministry360.com/blog/your-students-view-bible-starts-you>. In my opinion it does a great job of explaining God's Word in a way that seems to line up with the ways God intends us to use it.

I also encourage you to personally read each of the following passages about God's Word itself before you begin the series and use them weekly to guide your prayers for your students in this series. It is ultimately my prayer that this series would draw students closer to Christ, The Living Word, through His written Word.

Psalm 119:9-18, 105, 114, 160

John 1:1-5, 14

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Isaiah 40:6-7, 55:8-11

Romans 15:4

Hebrews 4:12

### A Few More Notes

You will not be able to complete tabbing the Bible in four 1-hour sessions. Students will either need to work on their own or you will need to allow more weeks or longer time. If you sat down and did the whole Bible in one setting, it would take at least a few hours to complete. The lessons below allow for some time to mark as well as some discussion questions to have before, after and/or during the marking time. It is also a good activity to use while building relationships between small groups because there is plenty of opportunity to talk while you work.

## Explode Your Bible – Week 1

### Large Group Discussion – Why Explode Your Bible?

Spend some time explaining why we might explode our Bible:

- To be able to see that God's Word really is relevant in life and can give us guidance, comfort and more
- Easy to access when you need to turn to God
- Not just a "go-to" guide, but also a tool God uses to draw us closer to himself
- To be able to easily find verses that may help you share your faith
- To become more familiar with navigating the Bible

### Large Group Discussion - How to Explode Your Bible?

Use the "How to Explode Your Bible" page in the EYB Kit to explain the process and then let them get started. It works best if you've started one to show them. Also, make sure they understand some of the key tips (e.g. always putting the sheet on the right side of the page, etc.) BEFORE they start!

### Small Group Discussion Questions (Before, During or After Spending Time Marking)

- How's life going? What is an area of life that's either going well that you want to praise God for and/or an area you are struggling and could use prayer for?
- Out of all the categories on the key, which do you think will be most useful for you and why?
- Spend time praying for each person either thanking God for what He is doing in their life or lifting up the struggles asking God to help them.

### Challenge of the Week

Pick one (or more) of these challenges for the week ahead:

- Take three to five minutes each day this week and read one verse from one of the top categories. It could be all from one category or one from each of the categories. Ask yourself some of the questions that are on the key card.
- If something comes up throughout the week, that deals with one of the areas we marked, try reading a few of those verses from that section and ask God to help you connect His Word with your life.
- Think of one friend who could use some encouragement, hope, wisdom or trust in God. Even if you don't get a chance to share the verse with them, pick a verse from one of those categories to read as you pray for them each day this week.
- Be prepared to share one verse next week in your small group that had special meaning for you and where it was applicable to your life or what verse you used to pray for your friend this week.

### Final Thought

Remember, we do this not to "know the Bible" better, but to know Jesus. Each verse we read in Scripture has the ability to draw us near to Jesus. THAT'S what this is all about: seeing Jesus and His love. May you know and live in that love this week!

## Explode Your Bible – Week 2

### Welcome and Recap

- Review the purpose of exploding our Bibles and bring anyone who wasn't present up to speed on what this series is about.

### Small Group Discussion Time – Before, During or After Marking Time

- How's life going? What is an area of life that's either going well that you want to praise God for and/or an area you are struggling and could use prayer for?
- Spend time praying for each person either thanking God for what He is doing in their life or lifting up the struggles asking God to help them. If possible, see if any of our tabs apply for the struggles and if so, read a verse or two from that section as a group.
- Have each person share one verse from last week's set that meant something to them throughout the week. Once all the groups are done with their discussion, students can sit with whomever they want to work on tabbing their Bible.

## Large Group Discussion

Spend some time this week discussing possible ways you might use your “Exploded” Bible. Here are some ideas:

- Use your marked Bible to share Jesus and His amazing grace and forgiveness with friends
- When you need encouragement in difficult times
- Sometimes as we’re reading Scripture, God’s Spirit begins to work in our hearts and convict us of sin. We can use verses from the “sin/temptation” and “Grace/forgiveness” tabs to help us fight temptations and seek God for His forgiveness when we sin.
- When you need God’s Word to guide you and provide wisdom for life
- When you want to study God’s Word but aren’t sure where to start.

## Challenge of the Week

- Spend some time at least once this week confessing where you have stepped outside of God’s plan for your life and thank Him for the forgiveness He offers using the verses in the Grace/Forgiveness tab.
- Think of one person who you know that does not know Jesus. Re-read through one or more of the Gospel/Grace verses we looked at this week and pray for that person each day.
- Be prepared to share a God-sighting from your week either from His Word or everyday life.

## Final Thought

God’s Word isn’t just some old historical book. It has relevance in our lives each and every day. It is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and God uses it to speak to us today. As you read His Word this week, spend some time in prayer before you do so asking God to open your eyes to the wonderful things in His Word (Psalm 139:18)

## Explode Your Bible – Week 3

### Welcome and Recap

- Open in prayer.
- Review the purpose of exploding our Bibles and bring anyone who wasn’t present up to speed on what this series is about.

### Small Group Discussion

- How’s life going? What is an area of life that’s either going well that you want to praise God for and/or an area you are struggling and could use prayer for?
- A “God-sighting” from the week. It could be something they read in God’s Word or any other place they’ve seen God this week.
- Spend time praying for each person, either thanking God for what He is doing in their life or lifting up the struggles and asking God to help them. If possible, see if any of our tabs apply for the struggles and if so, read a verse or two from that section as a group.

### Large Group Discussion

- Use verses from the “God’s Word” tab to talk about what God’s Word says about itself. Have each small group look up one or two of the following verses and write down everything it tells us about God’s Word.
  - Psalm 119:9-18, 105, 114, 160
  - Isaiah 40:6-7, 55:8-11
  - John 1:1-5, 14
  - Romans 15:4
  - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
  - Hebrews 4:12
- From either what we just read or your own thoughts, what’s your opinion on why God desires us to read His Word? What are the benefits for us?
- Above all, God’s Word points us to Jesus and THAT is why God desires us to read it.

### Take Away Challenges

- Introduce the “Take Five” Challenge. For at least 4 of the next 7 days, take just FIVE minutes and read a verse that’s now marked in your Bible. My suggestion is when you sit down each day for your time with God to look at the key and pick a verse from a category that seems relevant to your day. Read a verse or two and reflect on how the passage applies to your life today. Wrap up your time in prayer asking

God to help you put that verse into action that day in your life.

- Also, begin thinking of a topic that you would want to know more about from God's Word because next week we'll be working on finding verses for the "Choose-Your-Own" Categories.

### **Final Thoughts**

God wants us to read His Word. Sometimes it's easy to think that it's just some discipline to check off our to-do list. But the main reason God desires us to read His Word is because it's one of the best ways He has to communicate His love for us. Through His Holy Spirit He can use it to speak right into whatever situations we're dealing with. It also shows us His true heart of love for us and those around us.

## **Explode Your Bible – Week 4**

### **Welcome and Recap**

- Open in Prayer
- Review the purpose of exploding our Bibles and bring anyone who wasn't present up to speed on what this series is about.

As you explain how to pick their "choose your own" topics, consider some of these thoughts:

- This isn't just some topic that you want to know what the Bible has to say... that's PART of it, but really it's verses that you want handy. These are verses you'll want to use a lot. (See other thoughts in EYB Kit.) Spend some time brainstorming possible ideas such as:
  - Dating and Relationships
  - Friendships
  - Strength
  - Integrity
  - God Provides
  - Waiting on God
  - Confidence
  - Money/Finances
  - Rest for the Weary
  - Witnessing/Sharing Faith
  - Men/Women of the Bible
  - Doubt
  - Depression
  - My Favorite Verses
  - Prayers of the Bible
  - Joy

### **Small Group Discussion Time**

- How's life going? What is an area of life that's either going well that you want to praise God for and/or an area you are struggling and could use prayer for?
- Share a topic you would like to find verses about to mark in your Choose Your Own Category section and why you chose that topic.

### **Large Group - How to Use your Exploded Bible**

- Teach how to use tools like concordance, cross-referencing, websites, etc. to find verses about a new topic.
- Have them pick a topic or two they feel comes up a lot in their life and use the tools provided to find at least 4-5 verses for that category.
- The rest of the time is spent searching for new verses and/or working on marking their Bibles.

### **Take Away Challenge**

- Use your marked Bible this week. Take the "Take Five" Challenge and try to do one more day this week than last week. In your five minutes just STOP, open to the key, look around and ask, where could I use some of God's Word in my life today? Which of these topics seems to pertain to what I'm going through? Read a few verses from that category and reflect on how they apply to your life. Wrap up in prayer asking God to help you apply His Word in your life.

- Here are some good questions to share with youth that may help them in their devotion time:
  - How does this verse challenge, comfort or guide me?
  - How does this verse impact my life? Does it enlighten my past, expose anything about my present or frame my future? If so, how?
  - How does this verse affect how I think about God going forward?
  - What truth does this passage speak to whatever is going on in my life right now.

### **Final Thoughts**

Spend some time in prayer together asking God to bless these exploded Bibles. Ask the students how they've already found them to be useful or ways they think they will be in the future. If they haven't finished, encouraged them to do so or even set up some "EYB Parties" where students can intentionally get together, hang out and finish the Bibles together.

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