

Explode Your Bible

Supplies Needed:

- A Bible
- Explode Your Bible (EYB) Key (*on next page*)
- EYB Verse Reference Guide (*In this document*)
- Ultra Fine Point Sharpie Marker
- Scissors
- 6 sheets of Avery 05473 See-Through Removable Color Dots (*Unless you have really large margins, be sure to get the see-through dots otherwise you will end up covering up some of the words.*)

What is an Exploded Bible and Why Should I Have One?

- “Explode Your Bible” is a tool that helps us see the relevance of God’s Word in life and how God can give us guidance and comfort in everyday situations through His Word.
- An “exploded” Bible takes away the excuse that “I want to go to God’s Word when I’m struggling or when I’m joyful or (fill in the blank) but don’t know where to start.” Verses are easily accessible when you need to turn to God.
- An “exploded” Bible not only helps us find encouragement in God’s Word but can also be a useful tool in sharing our faith and encouraging people around us.
- This is not just a “go-to” guide. This is a tool God can use to help us get into His Word and draw us closer to Himself as we see Jesus in each story, passage and verse.



Anxiety/Fear
Worry/Peace

Encouragement
and Hope

Wisdom and
Decisions

Trusting
God

Prayers While Reading God's Word

Lord, open my eyes that I may see wonderful things
in your law. Amen. (Psalm 119:8)

“Lord, help me today to read and understand Your
written Word. I acknowledge that without the help
of Your Holy Spirit, all my efforts to study the
Bible are in vain. I ask that You cleanse my mind of
all distractions or lies from Satan. My time with the
Bible is also time with You and Your time with me.
So, I ask and invite You to have Your way with me
and in my life. Help yourself to my heart, soul,
spirit, mind and body, so that I may serve and
represent You well. All honor and glory be to Your
Holy Name in which I pray, Amen.”

“Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning. Grant that we may
so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest
them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy
Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the
blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord, Amen.” (*LSB pg. 308*)

Sin and Temptation

Grace and
Forgiveness
(HE LOVES ME!)

Who is Jesus?

Who I am in Christ

Characteristics of
God

Living Out My Faith

Giving Thanks
in All Things

God's
Word

Loving Others/
Relationships

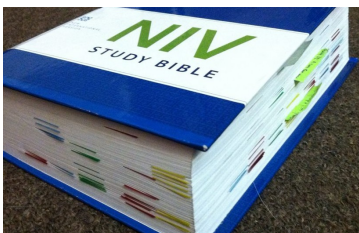
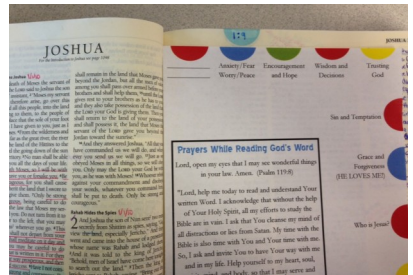
Sickness and
Suffering



How to “Explode” Your Bible (EYB):

(Using Joshua 1:9 from the Top Blue Category as an example.)

1. Print this document (in color if possible) and cut out the EYB Key on the previous page on the dotted lines. (It's designed to print 2 sheets/page.)
2. Use the Verse Reference Guide found on the following pages to find which verses to mark and open your Bible to the first verse in the first category. (Joshua 1:9 from “Anxiety, Fear, Worry, Peace”)
3. Place your EYB Key on top of the right page of your Bible.
4. Take a sticky dot that correlates with the color of that category (in this example, blue) and line it up on the page of your Bible directly above the half circle on your key that corresponds with that category. Stick it to the page leaving half of it off the page. Fold the sticker over (make sure you only have one page) so there is a half circle on each side of the page. (Note: Always put the key and dot on the right page of your Bible, even if the verse is found on the left.)
5. Take your permanent marker and write the reference (“1:9”) on the front side of the dot. (Some people also find it helpful to highlight the verse in their Bible with the same color as the dot or circle the verse number to help them find it easier later.)
6. Next, look at the Verse Reference Guide to find the next verse in the category. (Which is Psalm 56:3 in this example.)
7. Turn to that page, put the key on the right page of your Bible, place the sticker directly above the half circle on your key, fold over and write the verse reference on the sticker. (56:3)
8. Continue this process through all the verses in that category and then move on to the next category. Remember to change the color of your dot between each category and to always put your marking guide and stickers on the right hand page of the Bible.
9. The two red category slots closest to the spine of your Bible are for you to pick your own categories of verses that will be helpful for you. Tips for how to pick your own categories and verses are found near the end of this document.



10. Once you have finished marking your Bible, tape the EYB key in the front right cover of you Bible so you know which categories are where.

Tips From Those Who've Done It

- Some people like to explode the Bible they already use. Others prefer to mark a separate Bible. Do what's best for you!
- The dots stick better to the page if you crease the stickers as you fold them over the pages.
- Because it is important to always put the key and the sticker on the right side of the Bible (even if the verse is on the left) so the colors line up when the Bible is closed, sometimes the dot ends up in a different book of the Bible than where the verse is found. If this happens, simply write the name of the book along with the numbers in the reference on the dot.
- Some verses that are near each other can be combined on one dot and some of the ones already combined may need to be split up in your Bible. Again, do what works for you.
- The process is quicker if you pre-write the references on the colored stickers. If you do this, however, when marking verses on the top of your Bible, write the reference on the bottom half of the dot. When marking on the bottom of the Bible, write the references on the top half of the dot to avoid references being upside down. This doesn't matter for the side sets.
- Make sure you only have one page when you fold over your sticker. If you end up getting more than one, you can try to remove it and use a new sticker, or just take your scissors and slice the dot in half.
- Some people like to highlight the passages or circle the verse numbers in the Bible of the passages you are marking to make them easier to find on the page.

Ideas for Using Your Exploded Bible

- Use it to find verses for yourself or to pass along to others when in need of encouragement, wisdom or hope from God's Word.
- Some of the tabs (Grace/Forgiveness, Who is Jesus, etc.) are especially helpful in sharing your faith with others.
- Use it as a place to start when you want to see what God's Word has to say about something. Often you can read the whole chapters surrounding a marked verse to learn more about that topic.
- Use it as a daily devotion guide by picking one category you want to know more about and read one or two verses from that category each day. Then spend some time journaling your thoughts and questions.

Verse Reference Guide - Top Sets

Anxiety/Fear/Worry (Blue)

Joshua 1:9
Psalm 56:3
Isaiah 35:3-10
Isaiah 41:10, 13
Isaiah 43
Matthew 6:25-34
John 14:25-27
Philippians 4:6-10, 19
2 Timothy 1:7
1 Peter 5:6-7
1 John 4:18

Encouragement/Hope (Green)

Deuteronomy 31:8
Psalm 18
Psalm 34:18
Psalm 40
Psalm 55:22
Matthew 11:28-30
John 16:33
Romans 5:1-5
Romans 12:12
2 Corinthians 4:8-18
Colossians 3:15
Hebrews 4:14-16; 6:18-20
Hebrews 10:23
Revelation 21:4-5

Wisdom and Decisions (Red)

Psalm 32:8; 37:5
Proverbs 14:8, 15:22
Proverbs 16:1-3, 9, 16
Isaiah 30:21
Isaiah 48:17
Hosea 14:9
John 8:12
1 Corinthians 1:25
Philippians 4:19
James 1:5, 3:17

Trusting God (Yellow)

Psalm 9:10
Psalm 20:7-8; 22:4-5
Psalm 28:7
Psalm 37:1-7
Psalm 52:6-9; 56:3-4
Psalm 143:8-10
Proverbs 3:5-6
Isaiah 26:3-9
Jeremiah 17:5-8
Daniel 6:16-23
John 14:1
Romans 15:13
Revelation 21:5

Create-Your Own Category References (Red Closest To Spine)

Verse Reference Guide - Side

Sin and Temptation (Red)

Genesis 3:1-7
Psalm 119:9-11
Ecclesiastes 7:20
Matthew 4:1-11; 6:13
Romans 3:23, 6:23
1 Corinthians 10:13
Hebrews 2:17-18
James 1:12-18
James 4:6-7
1 Peter 5:8-9

Grace/Forgiveness (Blue)

Genesis 3:8-10, 21, 23-24
Exodus 15:13
2 Samuel 22:17-20
Psalm 103:10-14
Jeremiah 31:3
Micah 7:18-19
Zephaniah 3:17
John 3:16-21
John 15:9-17
Romans 3:24, 6:23; 8:1-2, 37-39

Who is Jesus? (Red)

Isaiah 9:6
Isaiah 53:1-9
Matthew 3:13-4:11
Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20
Luke 23:1-47; 24:1-13
John 11:35; 14:6
Romans 5:8
Romans 10:9-11
1 Corinthians 15:12-28
1 Timothy 2:3-6
Philippians 2:1-11
Titus 3:4-7

Who am I in Christ? (Yellow)

Genesis 1:27
Isaiah 53:5
Matthew 5:13-16
Romans 8:2
1 Corinthians 6:19-20
2 Corinthians 5:17, 20
Ephesians 1:7
Ephesians 2:4-5, 10
Philippians 3:9
Colossians 2:10
1 Peter 2:9, 24
Revelation 12:11

Characteristics of God (Green)

Leviticus 19:2
Deuteronomy 7:9
Job 38-42
Psalm 34:8, 18
Psalm 90:1-2
Joel 2:12-13
Romans 11:33-36
2 Thessalonians 1:5-7
Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17
1 John 4:8-16

Living Out My Faith (Red)

1 Samuel 12:24
Psalm 119:9-11
Isaiah 58:10
Matthew 28:19-20
John 13:1-17
Galatians 5:22-26
Colossians 3:2-4
Hebrews 13:5-6
James 1:27
1 Peter 3:15-16;
1 Peter 4:8-16; 5:7-11
1 John 3:16-18

Verse Reference Guide - Bottom Sets

Giving Thanks (Blue)

1 Chronicles 16:8-36
Job 1:20-21
Psalm 92:1-2; 95:1-7
Psalm 100
Psalm 136
Matthew 15:36
Colossians 3:16-17
1 Thessalonians 5:18
Hebrews 12:28

God's Word (Green)

Psalms 119
Isaiah 40:6-8
Isaiah 55:8-11
Matthew 4:1-11
John 1:1-5,14
Acts 17:11
Romans 15:4
Ephesians 6:17
Colossians 3:16
2 Timothy 3:14-17
Hebrews 4:12

Relationships/Loving Other (Red)

Leviticus 19:18
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Matthew 5:21-24;38-45
Matthew 18:21-35
Luke 6:27-38
Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10
1 Corinthians 13
Galatians 5:14, 22-26; 6:2
Ephesians 4:25-32
Colossians 3:12-14
1 Peter 3:8-9
1 John 4:11-12

Sickness and Suffering (Yellow)

Job 1-2
Psalm 30:2; 34:17-19
Psalm 103:1-5
Proverbs 17:22
Isaiah 40:28-31
Isaiah 53:4-5
Romans 8:18-38
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
2 Corinthians 12:9-10
James 5:13-16
1 Peter 4:13-16; 5:7

Create-Your Own Category References (Red Closest To Spine)

How to Choose Your Own Categories

There are spots to pick a couple of your own categories. There are some ideas at right to get you started. While picking these topics, think of things that will help you in every day life. Perhaps you are planning to study or work in the field of Science. Then find passages that connect with that. Maybe you struggle a lot with a certain kind of sin or temptation. Mark verses that will help you and encourage you to look to God for strength to overcome those specific temptations.

The key is to make this *useful* for you personally. This isn't necessarily a time to just find verses on something that's interesting to you or you want to know more about (e.g. The End Times or Animals in the Bible, etc.) Focus more on what categories of verses would be helpful to have easily accessible in everyday life.

Ideas for the "Choose Your Own" Categories

- God's Provision
- Waiting on God
- Confidence
- Money/Finances
- Rest for the Weary
- Witnessing/Sharing Faith
- My Favorite Verses
- Prayers of the Bible
- Men or Women of the Bible
- Doubt or Depression
- Joy
- Specific Temptations
- Vocation/Work
- Verses to pray over your kids, friends, family members, etc.
- Promises from God's Word
- God's Strength and Power

Ways to Find Verses for "Choose Your Own" Categories

- Use a Concordance - Small versions are sometimes found in the back or front of Bibles. Full concordances are a separate whole book. Pick a topic and read through to find 8-12 verses on the topic of your choice.
- Use a Bible with Cross-References - If you know one verse that really gets at what you're dealing with in life, use a cross-referencing system to find other places Scripture talks about the same thing.
- Use a Bible "Promise" Book - These books are already divided into sections by topic. Take some from a topic and mark them in your Bible.
- www.biblegateway.com or www.biblestudytools.com - Search the Bible for any word or topic. Lists are by book order or relevance.
- www.topverses.com - This is like a concordance but instead of being sorted in book order, it sorts the list to put most familiar verses first.