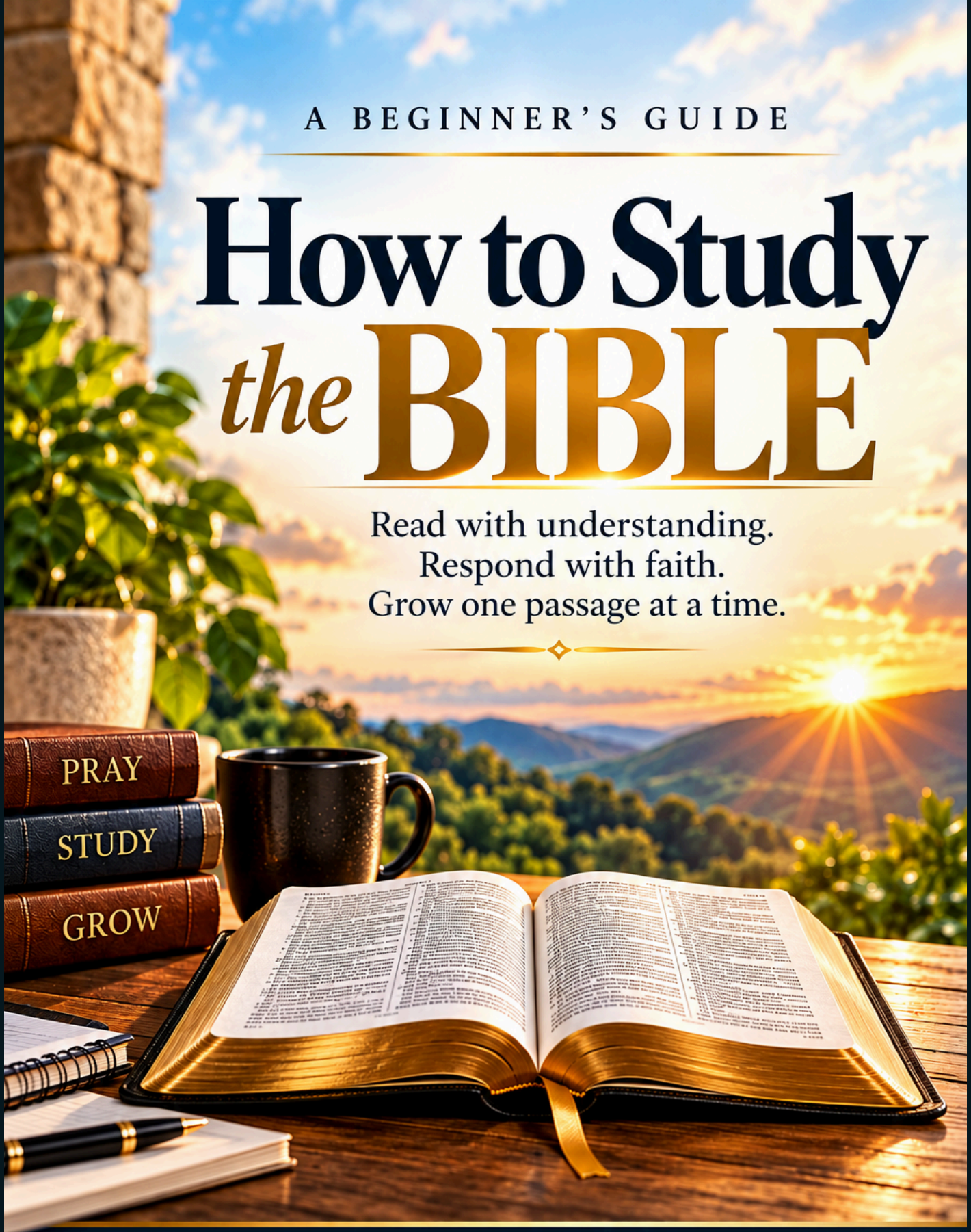
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

How to Study *the* BIBLE

Read with understanding.
Respond with faith.
Grow one passage at a time.



FREDERICK PERRY SR.

PRACTICAL LESSONS • A SEVEN-DAY PLAN
PRINTABLE WORKSHEETS

Pray. Observe. Understand. Respond.

Use these four movements with a paragraph, a short story, or a psalm. They give your study direction without turning time with God into a rigid checklist.

1. Pray: come ready to listen

Ask God for understanding, humility, and willingness to obey. Prayer does not replace careful reading. It helps you approach that reading with a teachable heart. Begin with a simple request: “Lord, help me understand Your Word and receive it honestly.”

2. Observe: what does the passage say?

Read slowly. Name the people, actions, setting, repeated words, and connections. Write down what you can point to in the passage before writing what you think it means. Read it again, this time aloud if possible.

3. Understand: what does it mean in context?

Ask why these words were spoken or written and what the surrounding passage helps explain. Consider the kind of writing and the original audience. Form a short statement of the main point, then check it against the text.

4. Respond: how should I live in light of this?

Identify a truth to trust, a command to obey, an attitude to change, or a reason to worship. Choose one response that follows from the passage. Bring it to God in prayer and return later to reflect on what happened.

A 20-minute session

Pray for 2 minutes. Read and observe for 6. Work on meaning for 6. Choose a response and pray for 6. These timings are a starting point, not a rule. A difficult passage may need several sessions.

One passage, one faithful response

Name: _____ Date: _____

Passage and setting

Observe: what does the passage say?

Understand: what is its main point?

Respond: what will I do, and when?

Pray: my response to God