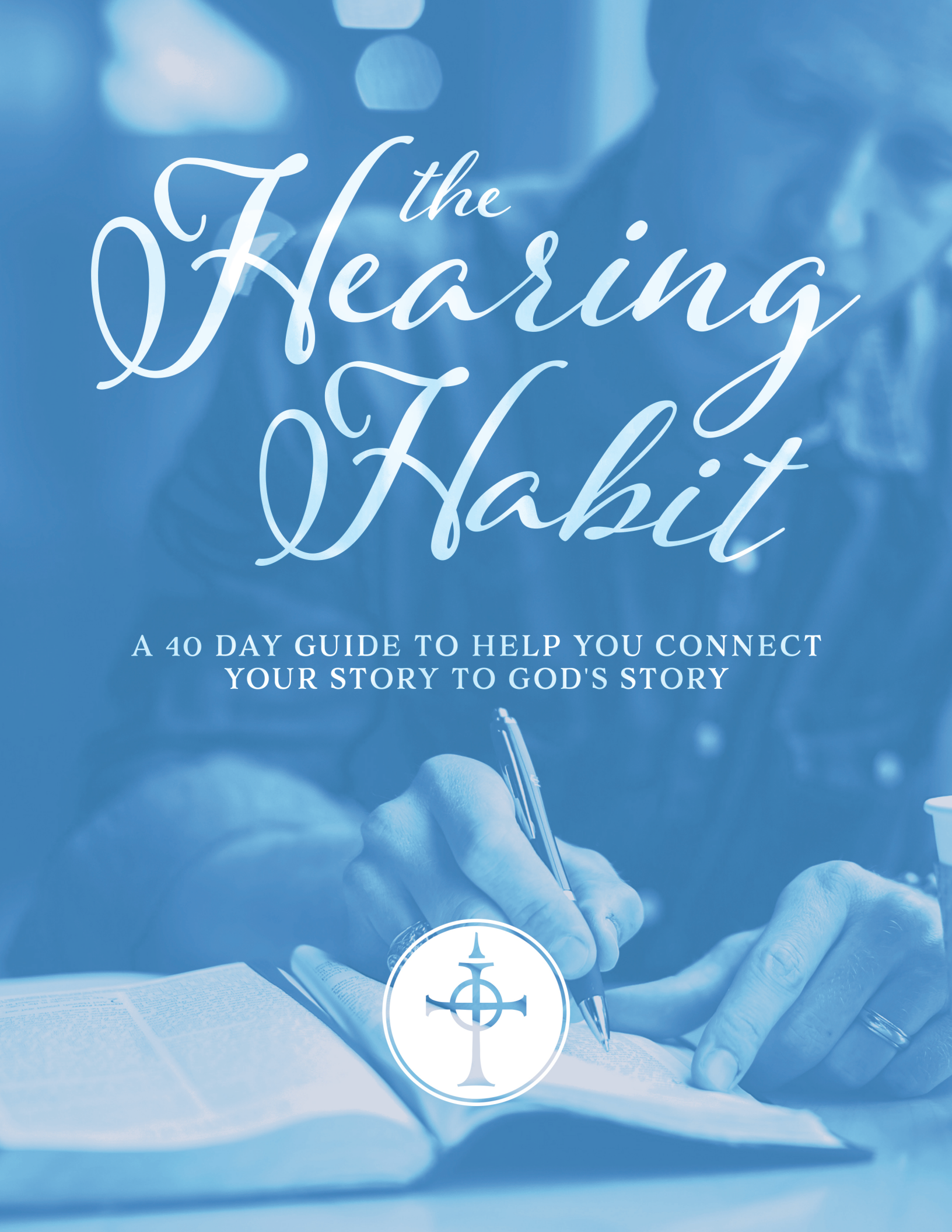
the Hearing Habit

A 40 DAY GUIDE TO HELP YOU CONNECT YOUR STORY TO GOD'S STORY



GETTING STARTED

The booklet you are holding is an invitation to explore this grand story of the Scriptures. But it's more than an intellectual exercise. Journeying through the Bible is a transformational experience. This 40 day guide is a challenge, but it's one that is simple to accomplish, and will pay huge dividends in your life. Are you up for the challenge?

WHAT THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT

We believe the Bible is God's living and active Word, graciously given to us to lead us to the good news of Jesus. It is what we orient our lives around. It is infallible and inerrant. It is not simply instructions, sprinkled with stories. Rather it is one, over-arching story that is sprinkled with instruction. It is helpful to consider the storyline of the Bible in four parts …

CREATION (GENESIS 1-2)

The world as God intended it to be, with humans made in his image, full of worth, value and dignity. The beauty of God's original creation is described in Genesis 1 & 2. Deep within all of us is a desire to have this world as it was originally intended to be.

FALL (GENESIS 3)

The Bible clearly acknowledges that man has been separated from God through the rebellion of our first parents, Adam and Eve. From this point on the entire world has been in rebellion against God. We live in a broken world.

REDEMPTION (GENESIS 3 - REVELATION 19)

God in his infinite mercy and grace, sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus lived the perfect life we can never live and died the death we all deserve. He bore our punishment, so that by believing in Him we could be in a right relationship with God. Believing in his literal life, death and resurrection, and surrendering our lives to Him, is the only means of salvation.

RESTORATION (REVELATION 21-22)

One day Jesus will return to fully establish his Kingdom and His reign. At that time he will usher in a new heaven and a new earth. There will be one final, consummate judgment, where Jesus puts the world to rights. Until that time, we get to be His agents for good and change in this world.

ALLOW THE BIBLE TO CONFRONT YOU

If you don't trust the Bible enough to let it challenge and correct your thinking, how could you ever have a personal relationship with God? In any truly personal relationship, the other person has to be able to contradict you. For example, if a wife is not allowed to contradict her husband, they won't have an intimate relationship. Remember the (two!) movies The Stepford Wives? The husbands of Stepford, Connecticut, decide to have their wives turned into robots who never cross the wills of their husbands. A Stepford wife was wonderfully compliant and beautiful, but no one would describe such a marriage as intimate or personal.

Now, what happens if you eliminate anything from the Bible that offends your sensibility and crosses your will? If you pick and choose what you want to believe and reject the rest, how will you ever have a God who can contradict you? You won't! You'll have a Stepford God! A God, essentially, of your own making, and not a God with whom you can have a relationship and genuine interaction. Only if your God can say things that outrage you and make you struggle (as in a real friendship or marriage!) will you know that you have gotten hold of a real God and not a figment of your imagination. So an authoritative Bible is not the enemy of a personal relationship with God. It is the precondition for it.
- Tim Keller, The Reason for God

THE BENEFIT OF BIBLE READING

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

- Psalm 1:1-3

Day 1: Genesis 1-2 - The Creation Account

READ

What does the text say?

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What is the main idea the Holy Spirit is bringing to my attention?

APPLY

How can I apply this to my life?

DEPEND

Prayer that I will repent and follow Jesus in what He has shown me

Day 2: Genesis 3 - The Beginning of Sin

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Day 3: Genesis 15; 17:15-27 - God's Covenant with Abraham

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Day 4: Genesis 21:1-7; 22 - God's Faithfulness and Abraham's Faith

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Day 5: Exodus 3-4 - God Calls Moses to Deliver His People

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Day 6: Exodus 20 - The Ten Commandments

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Day 7: Joshua 1 - Conquering the Promise Land

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Day 8: 1 Samuel 16-17 - David and Goliath

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Day 9: 1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9 - King Solomon's Wisdom and the Temple

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Day 10: 1 Kings 18 - The Prophet Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

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Day 11: 2 Kings 25 - The Siege of Jerusalem and Exile of Judah

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Day 12: Daniel 2-3 - Daniel in Babylon; The Fiery Furnace

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Day 13: Ezra 3 - Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem

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Day 14: Isaiah 9, 53, 61 - Isaiah's Prophecy of the Coming Messiah

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Day 16: John 1:1-18 - Who Jesus Is

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Day 17: Luke 4:14-44 - Jesus Begins His Ministry

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Day 19: John 3 - God's Love for the World

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Day 23: John 17 - Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

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Day 27: Acts 2 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit

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Day 28: Acts 9 - The Conversion of Saul

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Day 29: Acts 16 - The Gospel Spreads to Europe

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Day 30: Acts 26 - Paul's Defense of the Christian Faith

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Day 33: 1 Corinthians 13 - The Way of Love

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Day 36: Ephesians 6 - The Whole Armor of God

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Day 37: Philippians 1:18-2:18 - Christ's Example

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Day 38: Colossians 3:1-17 - Putting on the New Self

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Day 40: Revelation 21-22 - The New Heaven and Earth

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