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# The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study (Set): A Survey Of The Bible



## Synopsis

The Bible is often neglected or weakly emphasized in the education of our children. However, author Starr Meade contends that God's Word is the most important thing a Christian will ever study. This introductory overview of the message of the Bible encourages middle and high school students to explore God's Word for themselves. Available in multiple volumes or as a set, *The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study* leads young teens through the story of the Bible chronologically, teaching them about important themes and topics, such as the role of God as the main character of his own story and the relationship between Scripture's divine inspiration and human authorship. Students can either use the text as a supplementary companion to their own reading of Scripture, or they can simply use the study guide to move through the Bible from beginning to end.Â FULL SET: 978-1-4335-1182-0, \$60.00 Volumes 1 & 2, (Old Testament with answer key vol. 5): 978-1-4335-2028-0, \$35.00 Volumes 3 & 4, (New Testament with answer key vol. 5): 978-1-4335-2045-7, \$35.00 Volumes 1 & 2 (Old Testament): 978-1-4335-2024-2, \$30.00 Volumes 3 & 4 (New Testament): 978-1-4335-2032-7, \$30.00 Not sold individually.

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## Customer Reviews

I've reviewed three other books by Starr Meade this year (*Mighty Acts of God*, *God's Mighty Acts in Creation*, and *God's Mighty Acts of Salvation*). I've been impressed by Ms. Meade's ability to convey difficult theological concepts at a very age appropriate level for elementary, middle, and high school students. One of the questions one mom asked me about this study is whether or not it was practical. I think she wanted to make sure that it was practical, but not solely application. Here is Ms.

Starr's response on pg. 12 to that concern: "Certainly the Bible is not just any book, and our goal is never just to know the information it holds. God requires us to let his Word affect our hearts; he requires us to change our attitudes and our lifestyles so that we think and do what the Bible tells us to. But surely we must begin by knowing what it says." From there, Ms. Starr examines how studying the Bible is similar to studying other books and how it is different. At the end of the introduction, she cautions students that that studying the Bible isn't easy and that it takes "diligence and work" p. 15. I agree with her. What I liked most about this introduction is that it explains to the reader why it is important to study the Bible and the simple truth that "the Bible is God's revelation of himself to us." p. 15 We read the Bible so that we might get to know God better. The Waltons write in *The Bible Story Handbook* that "The Bible is God's self-revelation, and, as such, it enables the reader to know God more fully." p. 27 and then on p. 30 write "Relationship is the goal, salvation is the means, and eternity is the scope...Our approach to the stories of the Bible ought to focus on how each one helps us to understand God and his plan better.

I've had an eye on *The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study Bible* study books since they first came out. Our family has greatly benefited from several of Starr Meade's other books and I really wanted to get my hands on this set. So when Crossway sent it to me to review, I was thrilled! I added it to the Dancer's schedule right away and we've been going through it for several weeks now. *The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study* is a five volume set of workbooks designed to lead middle or early high school age students through Scripture. Using an easy-to-follow study guide format, it provides an overview of the entire Bible, while encouraging students to explore God's word for themselves. The set consists of two volumes apiece for the Old and New Testaments plus an answer key. There are two options for working through the series: \*as a supplement to reading the entire Bible cover to cover (follow the readings listed in the shaded icons in the margins) \*as a workbook that guides you through an overview of the Bible (follow the readings listed in bold print in the body of each lesson) Due to time constraints, we chose the second option this time through. The Dancer (8th grade) is working her way through this study independently and is very much enjoying it. She likes how it guides her through the Biblical text and allows her to discover for herself what God's word is saying rather than simply telling her what it means, and she appreciates the section introductions and brief explanatory notes that give just enough perspective while still allowing the text to speak for itself. The introduction ("Getting Started"), addressed to the student, is superb!

Homeschoolers have lots of choices when it comes to good curricula. Sonlight, Abeka, My Father's

World, Bob Jones Press, Alpha Omega, and so on. Our family has had very limited exposure to the Bible portion of these same curricula and still believe the foundation to teaching the Bible to our children is direct reading of the text, one-on-one discussion, prayer, and making personal application. This workbook series by Starr Meade will meet a need for incorporating Bible exposition into home school study plans. Five workbooks targeted for middle school to early high school, providing a survey of the entire Bible Volumes 1-2, Old Testament Volumes 3-4, New Testament Volume 5, Answer key "Students can either use the text as a supplementary companion to their own reading of Scripture, or they can simply use the study guide to move through the Bible from beginning to end." These workbooks are very word intensive. You won't find a lot of fancy graphics, color schemes, charts, timelines, basic maps, internet links, etc. The studies are designed to be read along with chapters of the Bible, about 3 chapters per study section. They are arranged in chronological order. Tests and assessments provided are typically short answer, fill in the blank, and matching. Not much commentary is provided. This is not a Bible handbook and does not seem to be geared toward life application although it would be difficult NOT to get life lessons by simply reading the Bible. However, students of this age may need a bit of help to cross the bridge to application. It is designed to be done at the student's own pace and can easily fit a 1-year or 2-year plan.

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