

Life Application Guide

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Get Real
With God

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Welcome to the Life Application Guide™ series of Bible Studies. These guides were written with you in mind: busy women who long to experience a life filled with God's purpose, His plan and His presence. Through the Life Application Guides you will find practical, scriptural help for your life journey.

These guides make the bible alive and relevant for everyone.

You don't need to be a bible scholar who has hours of devotional time available each day. The word of God is meant to be accessible and simple.

You can read this Life Application Guide in one sitting or you can spend a few minutes at a time over several days pondering the message and meditating on the Life Application Guide Action Steps. Many of these guides have companion audio versions for convenient listening whenever it fits into your schedule. Either way, it's your choice. Use these guides in whatever way works best for you, your personality and your life style.

Get Real with God

"Living a godly life in the real world"

We want to be godly Christians, we long to experience the new life, the new hope we've heard others talk about. We want to be free from emotional ups and downs, we want to have victory over temptations, we truly desire more patience and less anxiety. All those things are by-products of a life journey that is spent in fellowship with Jesus.

But, if we are not ordained ministers, if we struggle with understanding the Bible, if our life is pulled in a hundred different directions, how do we get on that path with Jesus?

We don't have time to sit for hours every morning in prayer and bible study. If we try to do it at bedtime, it puts us right to sleep. Bible study seems hard; too complex, boring even. Yet, we are told if we want to have true fellowship with the Lord, if we want to experience His blessings throughout our day we must:

Take delight in scholarly bible study

Start each day with a least an hour of prayer and devotions

Fill the margins of our bibles with notes and observations

Read the bible in full every year

Have you heard those types of admonitions? But how are we to do that? I've read that we are supposed to build a relationship with the Lord; I've heard Pastors preach on it, but I never felt like I could do it. I thought it took a deep spirituality and understanding of the scriptures that only people in full time ministry could have.

Getting real with God means knowing the truth of who He is and being our true selves with Him.

We're going to cover both aspects in this book. Think of building a relationship with a new friend: you want it to be based on honesty, knowing the truth about that person and being free to be yourself around them.

God wants that kind of relationship with us, because only when we know the full truth of who He is and act as our true selves with Him, can there be honesty and trust. Trusting in God builds our faith and strengthens our walk with Him.

I've been married for almost 30 years and when anyone asks the secret to a long and happy relationship, I tell them it's trust. The glue that binds us together even in the worst storms is our trust in each other. We know each other's heart, our motivations and our desires. I trust that my husband's intentions are always focused on doing what he feels is best for our family. I trust that he is continually striving to be the best Christian he can be. I may not agree with what he's doing or how he's doing it, but I trust his motivations.

You can only have that kind of trust if you get real with someone. You have to be willing to share your whole heart with them and be willing to see them for who they really are.

God wants that same kind of living, real, day to day relationship with us. It is religion which put God into a box and called the box church. It is religion that reduced our relationship with Him to formalized rites and rituals. That was never God's intention. God seeks a relationship. He wants to come out of the box and into our real life.

How can we make God part of our daily life? He seems real enough when we sit in church. We know He promises us a life of peace, joy and hope. We hear testimonies from other people about the wonderful things God is doing in their life.

Yet, Monday morning comes around and we're deep in the daily chaos that is modern life. The kids need lunches for school, the baby needs to be changed yet again, we spill coffee on our cell phone, and we still haven't paid that credit card bill.... We simply don't have time for God and we don't always believe He is relevant in our day to day life.



Getting real with God means turning to Him in all of our situations, lousy attitudes, overwhelm, chaos, mistakes and sins and asking Him for help.

It means we start to see that our “real” life is the life our spirit has in Christ and seeing our life on earth as less substantial. It means trusting that He has answers to whatever we are facing. It means being willing to give up our old way of seeing things and taking on the new life He offers.

You’ve probably heard that phrase before “taking on the new life He offers.” We’ve heard it so often it loses its meaning, it has become Christian jargon. It becomes a nice thought, something we assume we will get to enjoy in heaven. New life in God does not only refer to an eternal life in heaven after we leave earth. We can have new life right here and now in our current circumstances. God, through the work of the Holy Spirit within us will change our heart, our attitude, and our perceptions.

What used to cause turmoil, pain and stress in our life will not overwhelm us anymore. We can walk through all that daily junk and not be turned into Cruella deVille by the end of the day.

When we decide it’s time to get real with God and invite Him into our day to day life, He gives us God-vision. It’s like getting a new pair of glasses. The things of heaven become more clear and bright to us. The challenges here on earth grow fuzzy and indistinct.

When viewed through God-glasses people who used to annoy us are revealed as a brother or sister in Christ. Financial problems that previously caused anxiety are now seen as an opportunity to grow in our trust of God's provision.

Getting real with God means His will and His word take on relevance in our daily life.

He is no longer just something we think good thoughts about on Sunday morning. Jesus becomes our best friend, the real, living, caring person we turn to as a companion, a counselor, a shoulder to cry on, a friend to celebrate with.

Proverbs 29:18 says – *“Where there is no vision, the people perish;...”* The word used here for vision, in the original Hebrew, means redemptive revelation of God. When we accept God's glasses, we see things as He sees them and He is revealed to us.

People who have not build a real relationship with God and do not see through His glasses will perish under the pressures of life.

How do we get real with God?

If you are reading this it's because you want to *experience* God. You want it to know Him, talk with Him, share your joys and sorrows with Him and build your life on the solid foundation of His truth.

You want to get real with God, just like you are real with your friends, spouse and family. They like you just the way you are (at least I hope they do 😊.) Shouldn't God accept us just the way we are, too? God made us with the character traits we have; does it make sense that we should have to change that basic foundation of who He made us to be, in order to relate to Him?

Do not misunderstand: I am not talking about sinful traits here. God does not want us to continue in anger, offense, addictions, gossip, slander, etc. and claim He accepts us no matter what. 1 Timothy 6:11 tells us to pursue (seek after, long for) righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Unfortunately we've been led to believe that to have a relationship with God we need to be as holy and self-sacrificing as Mother Theresa and as steeped in Biblical knowledge as Billy Graham.

I have good news for you! God knows we are not all alike so he knows we will all approach His word and Himself, differently. You can have deep, meaningful, life changing encounters with God without first becoming a theologian. You can experience greater peace and joy in the midst of your turbulent daily life. God is not waiting for you to turn into a bible scholar before He will speak to you. He speaks your language, right where you are, right now.

God gave us different gifts, he put different personalities, like and dislikes within us. We are not all gifted for in-depth scholarly bible study, or eloquent, long prayer times. However, those things are not what God is looking for. He desires a close relationship with ALL of us.

Life Application Guide Action Steps™:

What are your perceptions about who or what you have to be in order to have a close relationship with God?

What is holding you back from getting real with God? A lack of time? Feeling unworthy of His attention? Seeing God as a stranger? Maybe you simply don't see Him as important to your "real" life. Take a moment and jot down what first comes to mind when you think about getting real with God

Your Personality Determines How you Relate to God

God is a real, living, being. He has thoughts and feelings. He desires our love, companionship and fellowship. That is why He created us to be like Him. We all carry the likeness of God within us, except He is all things: all powerful, all loving, all truth, perfect justice and perfect mercy. We, not being perfect, cannot be all things; we can only carry a small part of the characteristics of God.

Some of us are gifted at being more loving and compassionate than others. Some are gifted at discerning truth, others are gifted at dispensing mercy. Those individual traits are part of our distinct personality. Jesus has all personality traits in perfect form. We have some traits very strongly and others are less apparent and none of them are perfected. Because we each carry different traits or characteristics of God as part of our personality, it takes all of us together as a body of believers, to form a complete picture of God.

Our personality also colors how we view the world. Some people see life as being all about encouraging and engaging with other people. Some personality types are more interested in justice and righteousness. How we view life is also how we view God. God created us this way and He wants us to relate to Him in the same way!

My friend Carrie was created to be energetic, outgoing, and fun loving. She sees life, and God, in full color – an awesome, exciting adventure. Jaine, on the other hand, is methodical and detailed orientated. She reads the bible and sees rules to be obeyed.

Neither one is wrong, God is both awesome and exciting, and He is the author of commandments and covenants. Some of us relate better to the loving, merciful side of God, others to the judgments and disciplines.

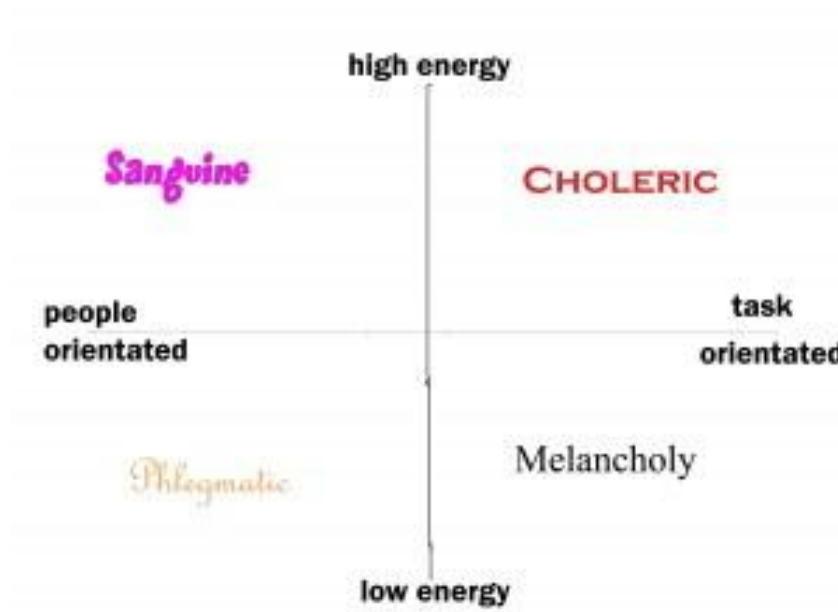
Let's take a quick look at the different personality types and then discover the freedom to relate to God as our real selves, exactly as He created us.

You Are Unique!

There are many different tests online to help you pinpoint your personality type. Some have as many as sixteen different types. This kind of depth and complexity can be useful for understanding a lot about ourselves. It also infers there are *only* 16 types of people. It is somewhat limiting as it doesn't allow for change or growth within our basic personality.

I've used a basic 4 type personality model for years because it gives us general understanding of who we are, but allows for infinite variation within our type and the possibility for movement, or growth.

Picture a large plus sign +. The vertical axis (up and down line) is our basic energy level, or "pace" as Charles Boyd calls it in his book *Different Children Different Needs*. At the bottom are the extremely laid back, casual people, at the top are folks who are driven to move all the time. The horizontal axis (line that goes across) represents a continuum of people-focused on the left to task orientated on the right. These two lines form a grid with 4 quadrants. The upper left quadrant is our Sanguines, top right are Choleric, bottom right are the Melancholy types, and bottom left is for Phlegmatics.



Sanguines, are average to high energy output and average to extremely high people persons. They are friendly to everyone, love large gatherings, would rather move than sit, and can be flashy and free thinking. Sanguines have the ability to remain optimistic and gullible, wide-eyed innocents, no matter what life throws at them. The draw toward fun and games can help Sanguines liven up a party, but it can also make them a somewhat less than reliable employee. Tigger from Winnie the Pooh is a classic full Sanguine.

Cholerics share the high side of the energy level with Sanguines but focus their energy on achieving things. Cholerics are the goal setters, the get-it-done-no-matter-if-it-kills-me people. If Sanguines are the cheerleaders in life, Cholerics are the coaches. They work well alone, but they know exactly what everyone else needs to do and they're not afraid to tell them so. Where the Sanguines organizing parties, Cholerics organize projects. Pooh's friend Rabbit is 100% Choleric.

All teams need a manager and a Melancholy is perfect for the job. Found on the lower right side of our grid, Melancholies are great at attending to details. They'll keep the stats, organize the locker room, solve the logistics and rarely get distracted from their task. Melancholies think everything through carefully. They spend so much time thinking and analyzing, all of life seems like serious work to them. Fun is a foreign concept. Of all the folks in the Hundred Acre Woods, Eeyore is the full Melancholy type.

Sharing this tendency for quiet introspection are the Phlegmatics at the lower left of our model. Here are our team players. Flexible, easy going and agreeable, Phlegmatics have the unique ability to operate in any of the other three quadrants, even stretching to the opposite corner to lead like a Choleric if the need arises. They will rarely start an argument and are the first to mediate other's conflicts. With their slower pace, Phlegmatics can be counted on to be calm in almost any situation sometimes to the point of inertia. With his charming personality and gentle manner, Pooh Bear is a great example of a Phlegmatic.

If you were to plot their places on the grid, Pooh and his friends would sit at the extreme outer corners of their respective quadrants. People are not so easily or obviously pegged. You might identify with Tigger's cheerleader-like friendliness, but prefer Pooh's slower pace, putting you closer to the border between Sanguine and Phlegmatic. Both Melancholies and Phlegmatics love to help people, Melancholies by devising systems to better people's lives, Phlegmatics by listening and serving. If you like to help people, but from a distance, you might be a blend of Phlegmatic and Melancholy. Full Choleric can be tactless and bossy, but a

Choleric blended with Melancholy tendencies softens that dictatorial stance. Hopefully, our objective is to move toward the center of the grid. Still unique in our own way but overcoming our weaknesses and growing in our understanding of others.

If you'd like to take a quick quiz to help you determine which type you are, click [here](#)

Life Application Guide Action Steps™: Which personality type are you? As you look at the descriptions and unique characteristics of your personality, do you see any similarities to how you view God? Read about the other personality types. Are there any characteristics of God in those personality types that you never really thought of as part of God's character before?

My personality type or blend is: _____

I see God as:

I don't usually think of God as having these characteristics:

Personality and Your Relationship with God

Your personality influences which characteristics of God you are drawn to. An outgoing, people focused Tigger, for example sees God as fun, as a loving Papa who loves to bless His children with surprises. A more laid back Pooh personality relates to verses about resting in the shelter of God's wings and they see God as a source of peace and comfort above all else.

The goal driven Rabbit approaches a relationship with God like an athlete seeks a good coach. Rabbit just wants someone to tell him what to do and then leave him alone to do it. Melancholy Eeyore's, with their penchant for details and getting things right, strive to learn the truth about God, often understanding awe and reverence more than love and gratitude.

God is all of those things: our loving Papa, a shelter from any storm, our guide and advisor, as well as a righteous judge. To truly know God, we must accept and respect all sides of His character. To deny He judges our sins, for example is denying who He is.

"...if we deny him, he also will deny us..." 2 Timothy 2:22. Paul is speaking to believers here, not unbelievers. We are called to know God fully, not just the parts we relate to or like the best!

In the next section I will share with you the spiritual strengths of each personality type, the typical view of God each is drawn to and even the types of Bible studies that might work best for you.

Your spiritual strengths

Rabbit

Spiritual Strength: Key word is practical ! Things that can be applied to real life. Strong in areas of justification and works, need to work on relaxing and letting God be in control. Gifted in leading and speaking, teaching and administrative ministries.

View of God: Sees God as a righteous judge who calls his people to action on His behalf.

Types of Studies: Topical bible studies without a lot of fluff - get right to the point and take action

Relates to God's power and control over our lives and has the hardest time submitting to His will. Rabbit personalities want to know what God is doing in the world and to take part in it. It is challenging for them to stop and just rest in His presence. Rabbits need to remember that the Christian life is centered around being in His presence rather than doing His work. Without a strong Eeyore influence in their personalities, Rabbits have a hard time sitting down for extended devotional periods and waiting on the Lord to speak to them.

Pooh

Spiritual Strength: Unquestioning faith is easier for them than the other personalities. They find it easy to accept and rest in God's provision and sovereignty in their life. Exceptional in areas of serving, compassion, and sharing words of knowledge.

View of God: Favorite themes are Peace, resting in God's hand and under His sovereignty. See God as a haven of rest and comfort

Types of Studies: Most anything is fine as long as there are no conflicts and a fair amount of consistency (Pooh doesn't like change.) He shies away from being put under any expectations to complete bible study homework or to answer personal application question out loud. Pooh personalities who don't like to read will benefit from getting an audio bible on CD's or MP3

A typical Pooh personality prefers messages that promote peace and harmony and doesn't ask for action or commitment. They tend to like a quiet and predictable Pastor who does not call on them to pray aloud or testify in front of the church. Theological discussions that require them to speak off the top of their head is difficult, they like to think things through fully before speaking.

Pooh is very good at making the bible uncomplicated so others can understand it. They accept fully the sovereign right of God over their lives and in so doing, bring a peaceful, calm, presence into chaotic situations.

Tigger

Spiritual Strength: Wants to help lift people from their doldrums. Thrives on "refreshing" and uplifting messages. Relates strongly to the Grace of God and is quick to extend that grace to others. Strong at encouraging, sharing words of wisdom or pastoral ministry.

View of God: Favorite themes are grace and forgiveness, least likely to accept God as a judge of our sins.

Types of Studies: Group study that is not too serious - loves to fellowship and have fun. It's a chance to be with friends and socialize AND it provides a much needed source of accountability. Being reliable and consistent is a weakness for some Tiggers

Prone to living an unstructured, impulsive life, Tigger has a very hard time setting a dedicated prayer time and sticking with it. This can leave Tigger feeling a lot of self-recrimination "How can I say I truly love Jesus when just about everything else in my life can draw my attention from Him?"

Tiggers would do well to make finding time with God into a spontaneous game: "When and where can I find God in my life today?" Keep a small portable bible with you at all times and some 3x5 cards with favorite scriptures on them. Leave some blank to jot down what God reveals to you in your "surprise" time together.

Eeyore

Spiritual Strengths: Favorite theme is growing in knowledge, ask the "why" to everything. Great teachers, servers and givers. Eeyore's are motivated by wanting to help other people grow in truth and to live a righteous life before God.

View of God: See God as deserving of our reverence and awe. A slightly distant figure to be held in high regard. They often have the hardest time accepting God's mercy and forgiveness.

Types of Studies: Planned and predictable, orderly, methodical, in-depth study Lovers of inductive studies, learning Greek and Hebrew meanings - charts, graphs, maps, cultural references, and the Archeological Bible.

Eeyore's want to know "why" and they want to get it right. This penchant for righteousness is a gift from God that flows with their common gift for perception. They know what is right in God's eyes and want to share it (not always tactfully, however.)

Eeyore is not a strong people person and people skills can be a struggle. Sometimes they need a push to get out and fellowship with other believers. Since they are so knowledgeable about scripture, they have a lot to share as teachers of the word.

Life Application Guide Action Steps™: Based on what you read above, what are your spiritual strengths?

God made you with those strengths – He knows your personality better than you do. He wants you to use those strengths, be yourself, in your relationship with Him. How can you get real with God?

Now that you've identified your spiritual strengths, what changes can you make in the way you approach your time with God? Is there a different bible study method or approach you can try?

Using our strength (of teaching, or encouraging, or stepping into leadership, or being a compassionate listening friend) is a way we can worship and draw closer to God. How can you use your strengths to benefit others?

Getting to know God

We all need time in God's word, no matter what personality type we are. We need to know His word and become familiar with His voice. One of the ways the Lord speaks to us through the scriptures. Bible studies can be intimidating however. Sometimes we just find them too dry or time consuming. Often the topics are deep theological studies that simply don't seem to apply to our current life.

We need Bible studies that are relevant to what we are going through today. We want to hear from God in a way that brings life, hope and encouragement into our life and that doesn't require a seminary degree to understand.

That's why I have written a series of [Life Application Guides](#). These are bible studies for real people, living real lives, and dealing with real problems. Life Application Guides are just that, a guide that helps you apply scripture to real life so we can live out the blessings and promises of God's word.



Best of all, many Life Application Guides come with a companion audio so you can listen to them in the car, or while waiting at the doctor's office, or even while falling asleep at night!

Conclusion

Getting real with God means knowing the truth of who He is and being our true selves with Him. We have to know how He created us and we have to know Him.

Although every personality relates to a different part of God, they are all correct. No one single view is the one right way to view God. He is our judge, AND our comforter, AND our friend, AND One to be revered. Reading about all the different ways people relate to God will increase our knowledge of the full truth of who God really is. We will draw closer to Him as we come to know all of Him.

Knowing He is a source of comfort and well as the one who is in control can help a Rabbit learn to let go of the reins. Understanding God as One to treat with reverence as well as a friend and companion will help Tiggers to respect God in a new way. Accepting God as one who calls us to righteousness can inspire Poohs to move out of their complacency and into spiritual maturity. As Eeyore comes to know God as a source of mercy and compassion, their relationship with God can grow from fearful reverence to loving fellowship.

This understanding may also help you in your relationships to other people who see God in a very different way than you do.

Matty is a very Tigger -like lady who is married to a confirmed Eeyore. She simply couldn't understand why her husband Dave was in such a hurry to leave each

Sunday as soon as the service was over. To her, the coffee hour after church was the best part. Dave enjoyed the in-depth teaching of the pastor but had little use for what he called aimless chit chat that was part and parcel of coffee hour. Dave took notes in the margins of his bible during service and highlighted scripture that stood out to him to review later. Matty took it all in, and then talking through the message with her friends afterward helped strengthen what she had learned.

Learning about different personalities and how they relate to God in different ways helped both Matty and Dave to understand why their spouse did what they did in church. Dave recognized that Matty needed talking time to work through the Pastor's message and Matty realized Dave wasn't just "doodling" in his bible, but was working through the message in a way that worked for him.

If you've been feeling condemned or criticized for not living up to someone else's expectation of how to build a relationship with God, try to identify their personality type. You will begin to see with fresh eyes how another person views *their* relationship to God and His word. I hope you will also be set free from guilt or man-made rules about how to get real with God.

About the Author



Susan is the CEO (Chief Encouraging Officer) at www.SusanScottOnline.org and the founder of LifeWorks Ministries.

Susan is an author and speaker, member of the American Association of Christian Counselors, bible teacher, a certified personalities trainer and leadership coach. As a life and leadership counselor and as a mom, her job has always been to help others see and develop the potential within them. She is dedicated to equipping Christian leaders to uncover their unique gifts and discover how to fulfill their calling. Whether you need help finding your purpose, are ready to re-evaluate your life's course, are struggling in your ministry, or just need an encouraging word, she's here to help. Susan's goal and the vision of LifeWorks is to help others learn to keep their eyes on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, praiseworthy and of good report so that we may reap the rewards: a life of peace and blessings that flow from living life God's way.

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:8