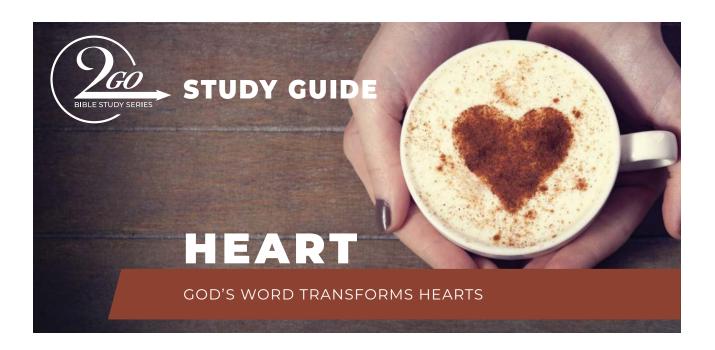


HEART

GOD'S WORD
TRANSFORMS HEARTS



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INTRODUCTION

In creation we see a myriad of word pictures that God uses to demonstrate His character, biblical truths, and His miraculous ways. Jesus often used nature to illustrate His divine teachings. The following insect story allegorizes the essence of the HEART Bible Study theme.

Imagine yourself as a child discovering a fuzzy caterpillar. Excitedly you pick it up and put it in a vented jar that is filled with sticks and leaves. You are fascinated as you watch its body inch along investigating the new habitat.

One morning you notice the caterpillar motionless on a stick. Pausing, you see thin cream-colored threads crisscrossing and surrounding its body. You wonder what's happening? After several days your curiosity turns into despair as you fear the caterpillar is dead. Then a small hole on the surface of its silk-like cocoon catches your eye. As you watch closely, you see something unlike the caterpillar is struggling to break free.

After what seems like forever, the unexpected happens—out emerges a beautiful and colorful butterfly! Carefully you unscrew the lid and watch it take flight.

You are stunned and wonder, how did that happen? Sitting in Biology class years later you understand—that magical transfiguration was a metamorphosis.

This process is the inspiration for the HEART theme—"God's Word Transforms Hearts." The word *transform* means to change in form, appearance, or structure—metamorphose. "Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has passed away. A new way of living has come into existence" (Il Corinthians 5:17).

As you read, ponder, and follow God's Word, amazing changes will begin to transpire deep within your heart paralleling the mysterious reconstruction that takes place inside a cocoon. These changes from within will be manifested in your daily living, creating a newness you never dreamed possible. You are a new creation!

The first two HEART studies center on God's HEART for you and how your HEART can become Christ's home. The last two studies guide you to dig into passages that will encourage and strengthen your HEART. This Bible Study draws from a variety of Old and New Testament passages.



OVERVIEW

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

DAY 1 HOPE & HELP

DAY 2 EXPLAIN & EXPRESS

DAY 3 ATTITUDES & ACTIONS

DAY 4 REFOCUS & REFRESH

DAY 5 TRANSFORM & TELL

My HEART Christ's Home

Week 1: Love Embraced John 3:16-17 Week 2: Forgiveness Romans 3:23-24 Week 3: Grace Ephesians 2:8-10 Week 4: Freedom Romans 8:1-2 Week 5: Eternal Life John 10:27-28 Week 6: Prayer Promise I John 5:13-15 Week 7: New Life II Corinthians 5:16-17 Week 8: Renewal Romans 12:1-2

God's HEART for Me

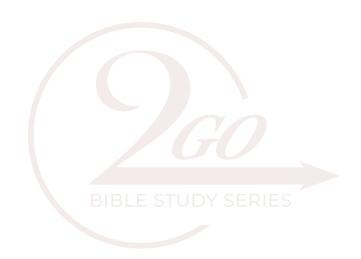
Week 1: God Loves Romans 8:38-39 Week 2: God Shepherds Psalm 23:1-3 Week 3: God Rescues Psalm 40:1-3 Week 4: God Cares Philippians 4:6-7 Week 5: God Protects Psalm 32:7-9 Week 6: God's Kindness Psalm 145:17-19 Week 7: God's Mercy Lamentations 3:22-23 Week 8: God's Help Romans 8:26-28

Strengthen My HEART

Week 1: Know God Psalm 9:9-10 Week 2: Heart Desires Psalm 37:3-5 Week 3: Protection Psalm 46:1-2 Week 4: Power Over Sin Psalm 119:9-11 Week 5: Guidance Psalm 119:103-105 Week 6: Wise Investment Matthew 6:19-21 Week 7: Endurance Hebrews 12:1-2 Week 8: Eternal Focus II Corinthians 4:16-18

HEART Encouragement

Week 1: Contentment Philippians 4:12-13 Week 2: Worry's Antidote I Peter 5:7-9 Week 3: Comfort Others II Corinthians 1:3-4 Week 4: God's Peace John 14:1 & 27 Week 5: God's Word Colossians 3:15-17 Week 6: Unshaken Psalm 16:7-9 Week 7: Wise Choice Proverbs 3:5-6 Week 8: Live Love Matthew 22:37-39





WEEK: _____ SCRIPTURE: _____

Each day: **read** the Scripture, **pray** for understanding, and **answer** the questions.

HOPE & HELP

List the messages of hope, help, and guidance God is giving you from these verses.



Write out the Scripture in your own words or draw a picture illustrating its meaning, making it easy enough for a child to understand.



ATTITUDES & ACTIONS

Based on this passage jot down your attitudes and actions that need to be transformed.

Write out a personal prayer to God.



Refocusing on and aligning our hearts to God's Word frees us to refresh others. If you choose to believe and put this passage into practice, how would your life, relationships, and mindset refocus?

How does this free you to refresh others?

Pray and list ideas on what you could say or do.



How is God transforming your life through this week's verses?

Who will you share your discoveries with this week?