



WELCOME TO FLOURISHING FAITH!

PRAYER: Before you read this post, take some time to pray for the Lord to teach you something new. I've already prayed over this entire website that the words would be from the Lord because no one needs to hear me talk or hear my opinions. Ask the Lord to help you understand scripture and give you a desire to spend time with Him. Ask Him to meet you where you are and to please speak something personal to your life right now as you do this Bible study – something to help you grow.



Welcome to Flourishing Faith!

My name is Amy and I'll be your tour guide on this little journey we're taking together.

Flourishing Faith started out as a dream I had in 2019. While going through a Beth Moore Bible Study one evening, I thought to myself, "I want to write like this one day!" Growing up, I always loved writing but this was more of a deep seeded desire in my heart to write content that drew people to the Lord. I didn't know what it looked like at the time, but started researching about blogs.

Blogs! How silly! Do you have any idea how many blogs are out there already? No one needs another blog! What could you possibly say that is new? You don't have enough experience as a writer and you didn't go to seminary and you didn't study the Bible in college... the mental attacks kept coming. It was Satan. But I kept the dream in the back of my head and whenever I heard something encouraging or thought of an idea, I wrote it down. Soon I had lots of ideas and lots of encouragement, but I still didn't know how it would pan out.

As a back story, I go to Passion City Church and this past school year the group of girls I had been teaching in Passion Kids graduated to Middle School. I moved with them. In February we had a retreat weekend and it became abundantly clear that the girls wanted to read the Bible – and many were doing so – but found it overwhelming and didn't really know where to start. We looked into Bible Studies for middle-school-age girls and there were a few resources, but not much. So... Flourishing Faith was born!

Psalms 92:12-13 is the guiding verse of this website. It says:

**“THE RIGHTEOUS WILL FLOURISH LIKE A PALM TREE,
THEY WILL GROW LIKE A CEDAR OF LEBANON;
PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THEY WILL
FLOURISH IN THE COURTS OF OUR GOD.” (NIV)**

What does that mean exactly? Well, it basically means that Christ Followers will flourish like a palm tree in the presence of the Lord. I don't know about you, but I love the idea of flourishing! I don't want to just get by in life. When someone asks me how I'm doing, I don't want to just say "I'm ok." I want to be great! And really great. Not just the "great" you say when you're trying to cover up that you're not actually doing all that well but don't want others to worry about you.

So, because we flourish when we spend consistent time with the Lord, if we continue on this journey together, we will be Girls with Flourishing Faith! And that is my hope for you. Not because you're reading my content (I do not have anything special to say, personally) but because you are diving into scripture and strengthening your relationship with your Creator. Like I said before, I'm just the tour guide.

Let's take a tour, then, shall we?

The website has three tabs to keep us organized:

- * BIBLE STUDIES** | This tab is where you will find all of the (well... duh!) Bible Studies. Here we will pick a section of scripture – like a portion of a letter from Paul, or the Gospels, or a well-known Bible story like David and Goliath – and figure out what it means in context but also how it applies to our lives. PRO TIP: If you find it hard to understand your regular Bible translation, I'd suggest looking at the New Living Translation (NLT), too. It reads a bit more like a story, which is helpful especially for Old Testament scriptures. Usually, though, I look at the New International Version (NIV).
- * FAITH IN ACTION** | You are here! This tab is where you will find posts on topics like: prayer, and how to witness to a friend, and what it means to forgive, etc. We will still study scripture in these posts, but because we are coming around a certain topic, we will study verses from all over the Bible in one post, rather than studying one section of Scripture.
- * MUSIC** | This is a fun one! Well... they're all fun in my opinion, but this one is especially fun. Flourishing Faith also has a YouTube channel. Posts in this tab will share playlists

from the YouTube channel and explain how each of the songs in the playlist points to a certain theme. Like, "Here are 5 songs that remind us that God can do anything."

* **CONTACT** | And finally, if you'd like to stay up to date with email alerts for new posts or if you'd like to send a suggestion or a "Hello," be sure to head over to the Contact tab. You can also follow @Flourishig_Faith on Instagram.

Let me just say right now – you will get as much out of this Bible Study as you put in. The Bible Study and Faith in Action posts will have questions within the posts to help you process what you are reading and additional questions at the end. My advice is to get a pretty journal and really take time to answer the questions and take a deeper dive into scripture. Maybe write down a quote or two from the study that meant a lot to you or helped you better understand. Maybe write down your thoughts as the Lord reveals things to you about your life.

Chances are, you're on this site because you want to read the Bible, but you'd like a little guidance along the way and resources to help you process what you are learning. If you're not in love with the idea of reading scripture, pray about it. Sincerely ask the Lord to stir your heart to love reading His word and love spending time with Him and trust me! He will answer that prayer because He already longs to spend time with you!

Studying the Bible should not feel like an obligation or something boring that you have to drag yourself through. It is one of the ways you get to spend time with the Lord while we're here on Earth! Celebrate this time! Find a **quiet place** wherever you are (this isn't required, but always helps me focus, and being an introvert, I just love the quiet!), **grab your bible and your study** (in this case, grab your tablet, your computer, your phone...), bring your **notebook** and a few **colorful pens** along and start reading and journaling.

If you feel rushed, don't feel like you have to do the whole study in one sitting. Honestly, when I do a Bible Study, I do as much as I can with the time I have available and sometimes it takes me multiple tries to finish. What's important is that you are taking in Scripture, processing what you are reading, memorizing it, and ultimately that you're spending time with Jesus. You can always start and come back later when you have more time. This isn't a race. And no one is grading your homework! Don't be afraid to have the wrong answer. Most of the questions are personal to you anyway. So, just write for you and the Lord.



DIG A LITTLE DEEPER:

Use the questions in this section to dig deeper in your faith - you know! Like a seed or a plant?! These questions will always be geared toward how the content we've learned impacts you personally. I would suggest grabbing your journal and writing the questions in your journal with

a colorful pen and then answering the questions underneath with a black pen. It takes a little longer that way, but you will always have the questions with the answers to look back.

* What are you hoping to get out of this Bible Study?

* Read Psalm 1:1-3 and Jeremiah 17:7-8. What do these verses say about people who delight in and trust in the Lord?

* Both of these verses use metaphors – mental imagery – to describe how staying connected with the Lord transforms a person. Draw a chart in your journal (or use the one below). On the left side, write down each metaphor listed in these verses. On the right side, explore how they translate into real life. (For example, the verse that says “...It does not fear when heat comes...” What could “heat” represent in a person’s life?)

METAPHORS	LIFE APPLICATION