

THE MARGINS METHOD

Bible Study
for the Way
You Are Wired 



Created by Jane Hanna Stoudt | The Margins Method
marginsministries.com

The Margins Method™ was born out of spiritual and sensory burnout.

For years, I tried to study the Bible the “right” way—color-coding, outlining, checking every box—yet I still felt disconnected. My mind was wired to notice patterns and feel deeply, but the methods I’d been taught left no room for that.

Then, I slowed down. I let silence be sacred. I gave God space to meet me where my brain actually worked—through color, rhythm, repetition, and reflection.

The margins of my Bible became a safe place for both my mind and my spirit to rest and respond.

This method is for women like you—
women who crave depth but not pressure,
who are wired uniquely—neurodivergent or simply tired of striving,
who long to hear God clearly and connect with Him personally.

It’s not about mastering a system.
It’s about meeting a Savior.

Let this guide be your gentle companion as you learn to study in a way that honors how you’re made—and encounter the God who designed you that way.

With grace,
Jane
Founder, The Margins Method™

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The Margins Method™

A simple way to study Scripture and hear from God in the quiet spaces.

Why Context Matters

Before we ever pick up a pen or color, we start with context—because Scripture can only mean what it meant before it can mean what it means to us.

The Bible wasn't written to us, but it was absolutely written for us. Understanding who wrote it, who they were writing to, and what was happening in that moment of history guards us from misunderstanding God's Word and helps us hear His voice more clearly.

Context keeps us grounded.

It reminds us that every promise, command, and story unfolds within the bigger picture of redemption—from Genesis to Revelation. When we slow down to ask a few simple questions, the Word becomes more alive, not less:

- Who wrote this passage, and why?
- Who was the audience, and what were they facing?
- What was happening in the world at that time?
- What does this reveal about God's heart and character?
-

These aren't academic hoops to jump through. They're invitations to relationship—ways of seeing the Bible as one story of a God who is still speaking.

What Is Simplified Inductive Study?

Traditional inductive study moves through three stages: Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

The Margins Method™ honors that same process but translates it into a gentler, more intuitive rhythm. Instead of heavy outlines and color charts, you'll move through a slower flow:

1. Ground — Begin with presence and prayer. "Lord, I'm here. You're here."
2. Read — Move through the passage slowly, noticing what repeats or stands out.
3. Mark — Use the Margins symbols and colors to highlight key patterns, truths, and prompts.
4. Word Work — Study one or two words more deeply; let Scripture interpret Scripture.
5. Reflect & Respond — Pause to listen. What is the Holy Spirit showing you personally?
- 6.

This is inductive study made accessible—especially for those of us whose minds move differently or who have been overwhelmed by "rules." It blends structure with freedom, reason with revelation.

The goal isn't to master the Bible—it's to let the Bible shape and steady you.

In short: Context keeps you rooted in truth.

Simplified inductive study keeps you open to encounter.

Together, they lead you to the one thing that matters most: meeting God in the margins.

Print this tip in for your Bible!

The Margins Method™

Speak Father, your servant is listening. 1 Samuel 3:10

The Margins Method™ is a simple, inductive-yet-meditative way to study Scripture—one that helps you slow down, understand the context, and respond to God with your whole heart.

How It Works

1. Before you begin, pause.

Take a deep breath. Let your shoulders drop and your mind quiet. Rest your hands on the open pages of your Bible—feel their weight, the texture, the stillness.

Whisper a simple prayer: Holy Spirit, guide me. Open my eyes to see, my heart to receive, and my life to reflect Your Word.

2. Mark the Text

Read the passage as if it's the first time.

Don't rush. Notice what catches your attention or stirs your heart. Let the words settle before moving on. Use these symbols as you read:

-  Keywords
-  Heart Stirs/Holy Spirit Lead
-  Describes God/Jesus
-  Truth / Promises
-  Word Study

3. Word Study

Choose one word or phrase that stands out.

Look up its meaning, compare translations, or see how it's used elsewhere in Scripture. Keep it simple. Note what you learn in the margin or a nearby space.

4. Reflect

Ask:

- What does this passage reveal about God?
- What truth is He speaking to my heart today?
- How might this shape how I live or respond?

5. Respond in the Margins

End by writing, praying, or simply resting in what you've heard.

This isn't about getting it right—it's about being present with God.

No stress. No expectation. This isn't about making it pretty. It's about making it personal.

The Colors of The Margins Method™

(and why they matter more than you might think)

Color isn't just decoration—it's a doorway.

God designed our brains to respond to color on a deep, sensory level. It's how we organize, remember, and even feel truth. When used intentionally, color helps calm distraction, activate focus, and invite emotional connection to what we're reading. For many of us—especially those who are neurodivergent or sensory-sensitive—color becomes a form of regulation. It slows racing thoughts and grounds us in the moment. It makes study less about striving and more about presence.

Each color in The Margins Method™ was chosen for a reason. Together, they create a balanced rhythm between order and wonder—helping both sides of the brain engage as you meet God in His Word.

● Orange Circle — Key / Repeated Words

Why: Orange activates focus and creativity.

Science: Studies show that orange stimulates attention and pattern recognition without overwhelming the senses. It keeps the mind alert but not anxious.

Spiritually: Circling repeated words helps you notice the heartbeat of the passage—the themes God keeps drawing you back to.

● Yellow Wavy Line — See God

Why: Yellow awakens joy and hope.

Science: It's linked to dopamine release, which enhances motivation and positive emotion.

Spiritually: When you highlight God's character in yellow, you're literally training your brain to see His goodness. Over time, that shifts both perspective and mood.

● Red Star — Truth or Promise to Carry

Why: Red draws the eye and anchors memory.

Science: Red enhances emotional imprint—what we mark in red tends to “stick.”

Spiritually: Marking promises in red reminds us that God's Word is living and active—truth to carry into our day, not just read and forget.

● Green Underline — Holy Spirit Prompting

Why: Green soothes the nervous system.

Science: Associated with balance, grounding, and renewal, green reduces stress and supports calm engagement.

Spiritually: Green symbolizes growth and new life. Underlining personal prompts in green helps you listen without pressure—responding from rest, not performance.

● Blue Triangle — Words to Study More Deeply

Why: Blue fosters clarity and reflection.

Science: Blue light supports concentration and lowers heart rate, promoting mental stability and curiosity.

Spiritually: Marking words for deeper study in blue mirrors the depth of water—an invitation to dive below the surface of Scripture.

The Bigger Picture

This color rhythm was designed not to clutter your study, but to create flow—a sensory and spiritual language that helps your mind and heart move in harmony.

Warm colors (orange, red, yellow) invite connection and emotion.

Cool colors (green, blue) foster calm and reflection.

Together, they mirror the balance of head and heart—truth and tenderness—at the center of a Spirit-led life.

The Margins Method™ colors don't just organize Scripture. They organize attention.

They make space for a mind that's wired to see beauty and detail—and a soul that longs to dwell with God there.

BIBLE
STUDY
MADE
ACCESSIBLE

THE MARGINS METHOD

COLOR CODED
MARKING SYSTEM

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REPEAT

CARRY

GOD

PROMISE

STUDY

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How It Works

1. **Ground yourself and Invite the Holy Spirit in.** Read the Passage Slowly.

2. Mark the Text

Use these symbols as you read:

Circle words that repeat or stand out

 Underline what speaks to your heart

 Put a wavy line under words the describe God

 Place a heart next to God's promises

 Mark words to study with a triangle

3. Word Study

Research and study the words that need more insight.

4. Reflect and Respond in the Margins.

No stress. No expectation. This isn't about making it pretty. It's about making it personal.



The Big Picture:

The Old Testament tells the story of God's creation, His covenant with His people, and His promise to send a Savior. It shows God's faithfulness even when His people wandered and paints a rich picture of His character through history, poetry, prophecy, and law.

Why It Matters:

Every page points forward to Jesus. Studying it helps us understand God's holiness, His love, and His plan for redemption from the very beginning.

Book	Author/Date	Main Theme	Key Verse
Genesis	Moses / ~1445 BC	Beginnings, covenant promises	Gen 12:2–3
Exodus	Moses / ~1445 BC	God delivers His people	Ex 6:6–7
Leviticus	Moses / ~1445 BC	Holiness & worship	Lev 20:7
Numbers	Moses / ~1407 BC	Wilderness & trust	Num 23:19
Deuteronomy	Moses / ~1407 BC	Covenant renewal	<u>Deut 6:5</u>
Joshua	Joshua / ~1400 BC	Conquest & faithfulness	Josh 1:9
Judges	Samuel? / ~1050 BC	God's deliverance despite sin	<u>Judg 2:18</u>
Ruth	Unknown / ~1000 BC	Redemption & loyalty	Ruth 1:16
1 Samuel	Samuel/Nathan/Gad / ~930 BC	Rise of kingship	1 Sam 16:7
2 Samuel	Same	David's reign	2 Sam 7:16
1 Kings	Jeremiah? / ~560 BC	Kingdom divided	1 Kings 8:61
2 Kings	Same	Israel & Judah fall	2 Kings 17:13
1 Chronicles	Ezra? / ~450 BC	David's line to Messiah	1 Chr 29:11
2 Chronicles	Same	Temple & kings	2 Chr 7:14
Ezra	Ezra / ~450 BC	Return & restoration	Ezra 7:10
Nehemiah	Nehemiah / ~430 BC	Rebuilding walls & faith	Neh 8:10

Esther	Unknown / ~470 BC	God's providence	Esth 4:14
Job	Unknown	Suffering & God's sovereignty	Job 19:25
Psalms	Various / 1000–400 BC	Worship & prayer	Ps 23:1
Proverbs	Solomon / ~950 BC	Wisdom for life	Prov 3:5–6
Ecclesiastes	Solomon / ~935 BC	Life's meaning in God	Eccl 12:13
Song of Solomon	Solomon / ~950 BC	Love & devotion	Song 2:4
Isaiah	Isaiah / ~700 BC	Salvation through the Messiah	Isa 53:5
Jeremiah	Jeremiah / ~586 BC	God's warning & hope	Jer 29:11
Lamentations	Jeremiah / ~586 BC	Grief & hope	Lam 3:22–23
Ezekiel	Ezekiel / ~570 BC	God's glory & restoration	Ezek 36:26
Daniel	Daniel / ~530 BC	God's sovereignty	Dan 2:21
Hosea	Hosea / ~720 BC	God's faithful love	Hos 14:4
Joel	Joel / ~835 BC	Day of the Lord	Joel 2:13
Amos	Amos / ~760 BC	Justice & righteousness	Amos 5:24
Obadiah	Obadiah / ~850 BC	God's justice	Obad 1:15
Jonah	Jonah / ~760 BC	God's mercy	Jonah 2:9
Micah	Micah / ~700 BC	Justice & hope in Messiah	Mic 6:8
Nahum	Nahum / ~650 BC	God's judgment	Nahum 1:7
Habakkuk	Habakkuk / ~600 BC	Faith amid trials	Hab 3:18
Zephaniah	Zeph / ~640 BC	Judgment & restoration	Zeph 3:17
Haggai	Haggai / 520 BC	Rebuild God's house	Hag 1:8
Zechariah	Zechariah / ~520 BC	Messiah's coming	Zech 9:9
Malachi	Malachi / ~430 BC	Covenant renewal	Mal 3:1



The Big Picture:

The New Testament reveals God's promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ – His life, death, resurrection, and the hope of His return. It shows how the early Church grew and how believers are to live in light of the gospel.

Why It Matters:

It's the clearest picture of God's love for us and how to walk daily with Christ, empowered by His Spirit.

Book	Author/Date	Main Theme	Key Verse
Matthew	Matthew / ~60–65 AD	Jesus as Messiah	Matt 28:19–20
Mark	Mark / ~50–60 AD	Jesus as Servant	Mark 10:45
Luke	Luke / ~60 AD	Jesus as Son of Man	Luke 19:10
John	John / ~85–90 AD	Jesus as Son of God	John 20:31
Acts	Luke / ~62 AD	Birth of the Church	Acts 1:8
Romans	Paul / ~57 AD	Salvation by faith	Rom 1:16–17
1 Corinthians	Paul / ~55 AD	Church unity & holiness	1 Cor 13:4–7
2 Corinthians	Paul / ~56 AD	Strength in weakness	2 Cor 12:9
Galatians	Paul / ~48 AD	Freedom in Christ	Gal 5:1
Ephesians	Paul / ~60 AD	Unity in Christ	Eph 2:8–9
Philippians	Paul / ~62 AD	Joy in Christ	Phil 4:4
Colossians	Paul / ~60 AD	Christ's supremacy	Col 1:17
1 Thessalonians	Paul / ~51 AD	Hope in Christ's return	1 Thes 5:16–18
2 Thessalonians	Paul / ~51 AD	Stand firm in faith	2 Thes 3:3

1 Timothy	Paul / ~63 AD	Church leadership	1 Tim 4:12
2 Timothy	Paul / ~67 AD	Persevere in truth	2 Tim 3:16–17
Titus	Paul / ~64 AD	Sound teaching	Titus 2:7
Philemon	Paul / ~60 AD	Forgiveness & unity	Philem 1:6
Hebrews	Unknown / ~60–70 AD	Christ as High Priest	Heb 4:14–16
James	James / ~45 AD	Faith in action	James 1:22
1 Peter	Peter / ~64 AD	Hope in suffering	1 Pet 5:10
2 Peter	Peter / ~65 AD	Stand firm in truth	2 Pet 3:9
1 John	John / ~85–95 AD	Love & assurance	1 John 4:7
2 John	John / ~90 AD	Truth & love	2 John 1:6
3 John	John / ~90 AD	Support God's work	3 John 1:4
Jude	Jude / ~65 AD	Contend for the faith	Jude 1:20–21
Revelation	John / ~95 AD	Christ's victory	Rev 21:4–5

Why Context Matters

Think of reading the Bible without context like walking into the middle of a conversation – you might hear the words, but miss the meaning. Context helps you see the “big picture”: who wrote it, why it was written, and what was happening at the time. When you understand the then, you can better live out the now. It keeps you from misusing verses and helps you apply God's truth to your everyday life with confidence.