



Writing in the Margins: Connecting with God on the Pages of Your Bible

Lisa Nichols Hickman

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No other time-honored spiritual practice is as immediate, raw, and engaged with Scripture as writing responding to God--in the margins of the Bible. Composers like Bach to theologians like Barth, botanists and saints all have written their thoughts directly in their Bibles. In doing so they engaged their fullest selves with our most significant text. Some people have lived with Scripture all their lives and yet feel estranged from it. This book inspires a new encounter with the living Word and jump-starts a deep, creative, and hands-on approach to reading Scripture. As you sit, with pencil, pen, crayon, or marker in hand and Bible in lap, at whatever edges of life you are living within, now that invitation is yours. The creative practice of writing in the margins creates a divine conversation that transforms and guides. Meet God in the margins. Let God shape your character from the living interaction on the pages of your Bible. "Writing in the Margins" is a book about making connections on the pages of your Bible and introduces a devotional and scriptural path of engagement that is life-changing."

Writing in the Margins: Connecting with God on the Pages of Your Bible Details

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Gea says

This book has radically changed this journaler from just wading through scripture to actually doing something. I LOVED this book and I rate it with as many stars as I can! In fact I loved it so much I have ordered my own copy as this one must find its way back to the shelves of the public library. What a gift Lisa Hickman has given to us through her friendship with Rich, a friend who passed away from cancer. His Bible was the impetus for this project and it is a project that will not gather dust but grow exponentially in your life. As I read I learned much about myself and the most profound thought was this: I am secure in the written word and I dwell there, I fear the margins just as the people who constructed the Tower of Babel. They were fearful of losing community and in the end God pushed them out of their comfort zone to experience what they feared most. God has moved me out and although my legs are trembling along with my hands, there is a world that needs the love of Jesus Christ and I must move out of my holy huddle of the scripture to real life. And He will go with me. I am not alone yet the truth remains that this is sooooo hard. Lisa Hickman may have no idea on the impact she has had in challenging this reader.

If you too are comfortable in your holy huddle of scripture this book will challenge you, move you and love you in the process. Each chapter has exercises to do all of that and more.

Incredible beyond words...you may read and wonder why I was so ecstatic over this book and may not find it as I did, but perhaps you are not where I am. Perhaps you are moving easily from scripture to margin and back and thus you should use this book as a teaching tool to mentor another who is tentatively testing the waters. Please enjoy this book first and foremost for yourself and then enjoy it with another.

Kristin Russell says

Not What It Appears to Be

I purchased this book hoping to learn some new techniques for bible study. Among other "cutting edge" techniques, it advises one to draw butterflies in the margins. Really?!? I can figure out how doodle in my bible without purchasing a book. Very misleading.

Kim Wells says

LOVED this book. So beautifully written. Filled with stories of all kinds of people, very practical and thoughtful encouragements about bible study, life, love, faith. Each chapter ends with an opportunity to put the ideas/thoughts into practice in your own Bible. I cannot gush enough on this book. One of my absolute favorites.

Jamie Costen says

Personally, this book was quite a disappointment. The very size and feel of the book (it looks and feels like a notebook) made it seem that it would focus on the practicals and the methods for actually writing in your bible. However, no such chapter was found. Basically, the whole book took each chapter as an opportunity to explain why we s h o u l d take notes in our bibles, rather than explaining the how. I honestly would finish each chapter in expectation of when she would actually give clearer examples of h o w to study scripture, with no such luck. If you're looking for a hyper-spiritual exhortation to taking biblical notes, read this book. But if you're already convinced and want something more tangible, I would suggest "Women of the Word" (which is amazing even if you're a man, or "How to Just Get In Gods Word"

Elizabeth Wallace says

Absolutely loved!

Jordyne says

This was an enjoyable book. I felt like it was a bit repetitive at times; she maybe hammered the imagery of "the margin" a bit too hard. It was beautiful and poetic in some places and cheesy in others. I loved the stories of how/what people throughout history have written in their Bibles. I had no desire to complete the exercises suggested even though I write in my Bible frequently

Jennifer says

Lovely, thoughtful book, chock full of theological reflection and creative practices.

Lisa says

Wasn't my favorite, but did get some interesting insight into how many people do actually write in their books.

I don't normally mark up regular books but will take notes in my bible frequently.

Leah says

I have been doing art journaling in my Bible for almost a year now, but I recently wanted to dive into more notetaking than art. This book wasn't really a "how-to," which I've seen several complaints about in other reviews. I wasn't expecting that, so I enjoyed it. Hickman goes into a history of marginalia and how it impacts interaction with the text. I love that she shared real life examples of people who write in their margins. At the end of each chapter, there are several "prompts" to get your pen working, which I also really enjoyed. It lost a star for me because it was kind of heavy on the historical end and seemed repetitive. Even so, I recommend.

Betsy says

I purchased this book along with my journaling bible. Not quite what I was expecting, but not a bad read. Took me forever to read because I would get distracted by my other bible studies. I guess that says something, it wasn't quite enough to keep this girl's attention. Even though this wasn't the most captivating book, it was very enlightening. I loved the different people's margin writings that the author discussed. It was also quite nice to have the ideas at the end of each chapter of ways to journal in your bible.

Mandi Ehman says

I wanted to love this book, and there were parts I did enjoy and appreciate. But overall I felt like the symbolism, connections and importance of marginalia were overstated, as if writing in the margins was a necessary spiritual discipline that had been mandated by God from the beginning rather than a beneficial but optional - and man made - practice. For me, those abstract and stretched connections took away from the value of the book and made it harder for me to take the rest of it seriously.

Kellye says

I have actually been reading/working my way through this in my quiet time since about the first of August. It's not a quick read at all. BUT--it's worth your time if you are interested in a different way to approach the text of the Bible. For me, this was an important book that God used to move me to loosen up a bit in my study and reading of His word. This is a beautifully written book, and it has real-life contributions from other people and some practical things for you to do, too. I really recommend this to anyone looking for something a little different in their time with God each morning.
