

# DEEP ROOTED

## *Leader's Guide*



Each volume of the Deep Rooted devotional series makes a great resource for your personal time in God's Word. But groups like Deep Rooted too! This brief guide provides helps and tips for using one of the Deep Rooted devotionals for your small group Bible study.

Unlike a traditional Bible study with a weekly format, the Deep Rooted books are a daily format. Depending on the Deep Rooted volume you choose, it may be 40 or 50 days. The following suggestions are based on your group members completing five days of devotions per week. However, feel free to adjust that to meet the needs of your group.

### **Introductory Session (Week One)**

I suggest meeting for the first time before the participants begin working through the devotional book. This provides an opportunity to lay a good foundation for the study ahead. The following activities will help the participants get the most out of the Deep Rooted format and the Bible book you'll be studying:

## Introductory Session Cont.

- **Video Teaching** - Watch Kathy's 30-minute video overview of the "4 R Bible Study Method" on You Tube. (Look for the QR code at the end of this guide.)
- **Distribute Books** – If your group members don't already have their copy of the Deep Rooted devotional, hand these out now.
- **4 R Appendices** - Refer the group to the appendices in the back of the Deep Rooted book that summarize the 4 R Bible Study Method and give additional helps for this form of inductive Bible study. Discuss any questions.
- **4 R Format** - Ask the group to turn to Day 1 in their Deep Rooted book. Show them how each day is formatted around the 4 R Bible study Method.
- **Encourage Deeper Study** – Your group members daily study does not have to be limited by the questions included in the book. Encourage them to dig deeper into each day's passage as they have time. The Record and Reflect questions included each day merely scratch the surface of what they might discover in the passage. Use the appendices in the back to highlight ways they can expand their observation (RECORD). Also highlight the five guidelines for interpretation (REFLECT) found in the 4 R Method overview.
- **Discuss Book Background** – Walk your group through the background information of the Bible book you will be studying. It is provided for you near the front of your Deep Rooted book. This information is vital for a solid understanding of the Bible book.



## Introductory Session Cont.

- **Highlight the Literary Genre** - Identify the literary genre for the book you're studying for your group. The blog links next to each item below goes into more detail about how to handle that specific literary genre. Review it before you meet with the group so you can share tips or go over it together as a group.
  - Gospel (Mark, John) – [4 Tips For Understanding the Gospels](#)
  - Historical Narrative (Acts) – [5 Tips for Understanding Biblical Narrative](#)
  - Epistle (Romans, Hebrews) – [8 Tips for Understanding the Epistles](#)
- **Optional Challenge** - Encourage them to read the book through in its entirety before they begin the daily devotions. Or, if you can contact your group, challenge them to do this before the first meeting. This optional reading will enhance their understanding of the book and help them see overall themes.
- **Suggested Study Length**
  - 40 Day Devotional (9 weeks total)
    - Week One – Introductory meeting
    - Weeks Two to Nine – Cover five days of devotions each week
  - 50-Day Devotional (11 weeks total)
    - Week One – Introductory meeting
    - Weeks Two to Eleven – Cover five days of devotions each week



## Leader's Preparation (Each week)

Thank you for your commitment to help others get into God's Word. May God give you understanding and wisdom as you study the passage yourself and prepare to guide each week's group session. Here are a few tips that may help:

- Pray and ask God to teach you.
- Read all the passages and complete each day's study using the 4 R Method.
- Highlight any information from each day's commentary to share in the group that is relevant for understanding the passage. Particularly note facts and background information that cannot be gleaned from the passage itself.
- Refer to a Bible dictionary, handbook, or commentary to help you with anything you did not understand. Wait to do this until after you have thoroughly studied the passage yourself.

## Study Sessions (Weeks Two through Nine or Eleven)

Feel free to format your group time in a way that works best for you and your group members. But, you may find the following suggestions helpful:

- Read the Bible passage for that day.
- Share any information from that day's commentary you highlighted in advance.

*Continued on the next page*



## Study Session Cont.

- **Record** – *What does the passage say?*
  - Be intentional in this step each week to help train those in your group not to jump to meaning and application.
  - Ask the RECORD questions from the book's devotional but also go beyond that.
  - Ask the group members to share other observations they made in the passage.
  - As you do your own study at home, write any additional observations you make from the passage in your book. Ask any of these that have not already been covered.
- **Reflect** – *What does the passage mean?*
  - Reflect on what you observed in the passage in order to understand God's original meaning.
  - Use good interpretation guidelines. Consider:
    - Literary genre
    - Historical/cultural background
    - Literary context
    - Metanarrative of Scripture
    - Other Scripture
  - Identify the eternal truths & timeless principles taught.
- **Respond** – *How should these be applied to your lives?*
  - Some of the application will be for all of you. For example, if there is a truth to believe about God that is for everyone.
  - Other application will be very specific and individual. For instance, someone may feel convicted of sin and need to repent. Someone else may feel a call to step out in obedience in a particular area of their life.
  - Refer to the RESPOND step in Appendix One in the book as needed.
- **Repeat** these steps for each devotion.



## Additional Resources

I have compiled lists of both online and printed resources you may find helpful.

- [Online tools](#)
- [Suggested printed resources](#)

### KATHY'S VIDEO TEACHING ON THE 4 R BIBLE STUDY METHOD



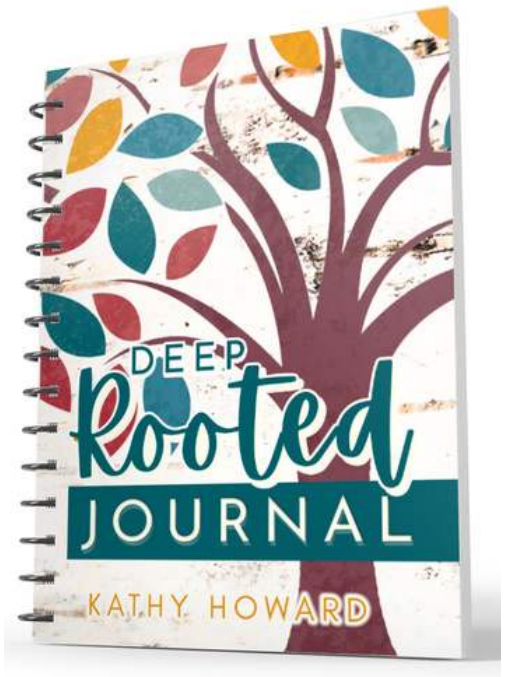
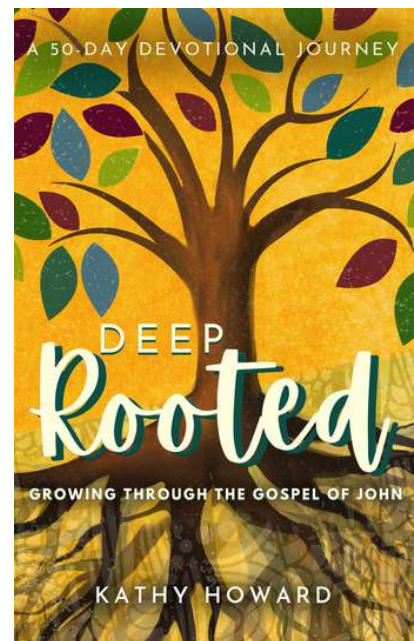
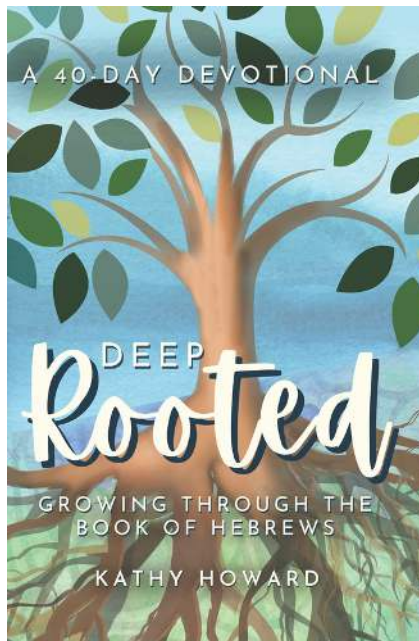
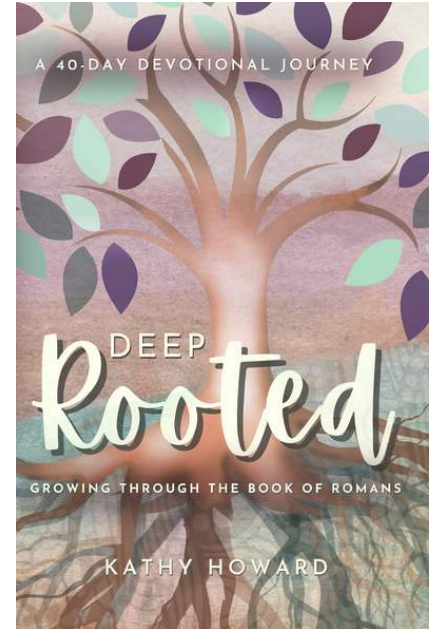
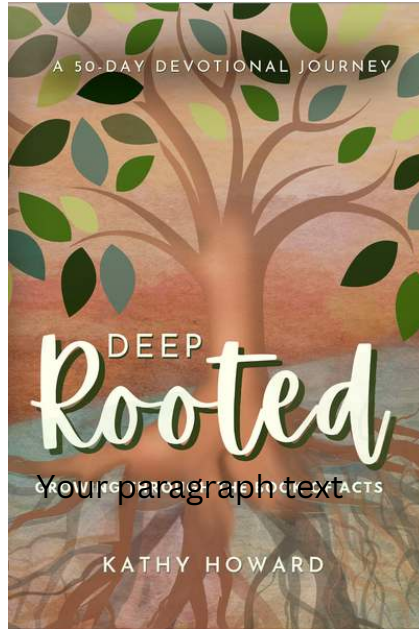
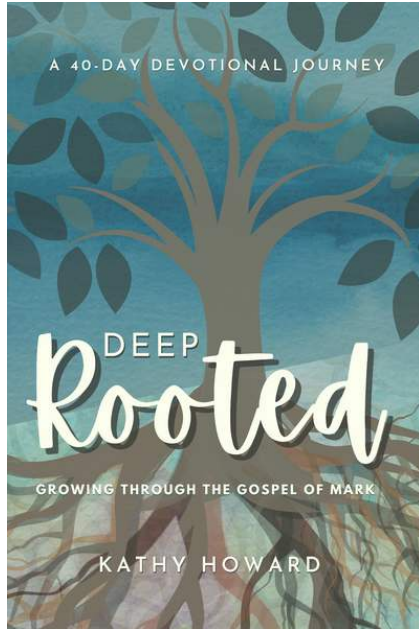
### FIND MORE RESOURCES AND TIPS ON KATHY'S WEBSITE





# DEEP ROOTED *Devotionals*

By Kathy Howard





## Meet Kathy



Kathy Howard describes herself as a “former cultural Christian.” Although, she grew up in church, Kathy missed a real connection with God. Then, as a young wife and mom, she attended her first women’s Bible study. God used the book of Romans to claim her heart and mind. She’s been passionately teaching the Bible ever since.

In 2004, Kathy earned a Master’s degree in Religious Education and a certificate in Women’s Ministry from the Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary. Her ministry and church leadership experience include forming and leading short-term mission teams, building and leading church women’s ministry programs, directing Vacation Bible School programs, and serving on a church staff as the Minister of Adult Education.

Kathy has been teaching the Bible for more than thirty years. In the local church, Kathy’s teaching experience includes youth Sunday School, adult small groups, middle school Bible club, and women’s Bible study. Kathy has taught in dozens of states, internationally, and in a wide range of venues, including church women’s retreats, multi-church women’s conferences and large online events. Kathy’s love for teaching naturally led to writing Bible studies and devotional books. She is an award-winning, multi-published author of books like *Unshakeable Faith*, *Heirloom*, and the meaty devotional series *Deep Rooted*. She is also a regular contributor to numerous online magazines and devotional sites. Kathy also serves on the LifeWay Women’s Ministry Training Team.





Kathy and her husband raised three children and have been married for more than 40 years. Wayne, a petroleum engineer, retired from Conoco-Phillips. During Wayne's long career, the family moved seven times. They began in the heart of Cajun country in south Louisiana. The family spent six years in Casper, Wyoming. They lived twice in Midland, Texas, and twice in the Houston area. But the family's overall favorite location was the six years they spent in Alberta, Canada, in sight of the Canadian Rockies. While in Alberta, the family enjoyed camping, hiking, and snow skiing!

After Wayne's retirement, the couple moved just outside the Dallas/Ft Worth area to be near family. Wayne and Kathy have two daughters, one son, two sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, five grandsons, and one spoiled granddaughter.

Through her books, website, and speaking events, Kathy shares her passion for God's Word and encourages women to live an unshakeable faith for life. She provides free discipleship resources and blogs regularly at [www.KathyHoward.org](http://www.KathyHoward.org).