

*Looking for Answers?
They're in here!*



HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – PART 1

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Course: Discipleship Program

How to Study the Bible—Introduction

- Believe it or not many people really don't know where to start when it comes to studying the Bible. Most people hear “you need to study the Bible to grow in the Lord,” but it ends there.
- What are the practical, step by step things to do to study the Bible where actual spiritual growth occurs?

How to Study the Bible--Overview

- There are four approaches to studying the Bible that these teachings will cover.
 - The Topical Bible Study – This approach takes one topic such as Water Baptism and goes through the scriptures using a concordance, the Internet or Bible Software as the “tools.”
 - The Chapter “Gleaning” Study – This approach takes one chapter of the Bible and goes through each verse studying each verse using multiple versions of the Bible. This can be done online or you can buy a multiple version Bible. Online is FREE.

How to Study the Bible--Overview

- The Scripture “Trail” Study – This approach is to take your “base” scripture and look up all scriptures associated with it and look them up and then follow the trail of scriptures through the Bible from that one scripture. It is amazing how God will show you things down this trail!
- The Bible Book Study – This approach is to take a book of the Bible such as Genesis and go through each chapter noting each principle(s) the Lord shows you.

How to Study the Bible--Overview

- Tonight we are going to learn how to do two of the Bible study methods shown here tonight.
 - The Topical Bible Study Method
 - The Chapter “Gleaning” Method
- But before we get into the “meat” of the lesson, I want to discuss the importance of doing regular Bible studies as part of your walk with the Lord.
- Get out your highlighters, pens and notebooks and let’s learn how to study the Bible!

The Importance of Bible Study

- Isn't just reading the Bible enough? In a word, NO. It isn't.
- Bible reading is a very important thing to do every day because the Lord talks to us through the scriptures in our daily readings. It's fun to read about Bible characters such as Job or Esther or David. The Lord uses these stories to talk to us about things going on in our own lives.
- However, Bible study is a more focused activity in that you are searching the scriptures for insight into God's will on different subjects.

What is the Difference?

- Bible reading is very important for every believer to do on a daily basis.
- Bible study should be done regularly because the Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 2:15 ***“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling] the Word of Truth.”***

The Purpose of Bible Study

- 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us the real purpose for regular Bible study. Let's break it down.
 - ▣ Study the Word
 - ▣ Be eager in the Faith with trials
 - ▣ Give it your all to present yourself to God
 - ▣ Results of these efforts:
 - A workman that needs not be ashamed
 - Correctly analyzing the Word of God
 - Accurately dividing the Word of Truth

Bible Study Motivators

- What are some of the motivators for us to study the Bible?
 - ▣ Curiosity
 - ▣ Fiery Trials and persecutions
 - ▣ The Unction of the Holy Spirit
 - ▣ Teaching or Training
- Whatever the motivation, the point is to begin a regular practice of Bible study to reach the place where you can “rightly divide the Word of Truth.”

The Discipline of Bible Study

- It takes discipline to establish a solid Bible study life. Your flesh does NOT want to do it. The devil certainly doesn't want you to do it.
- Establishing the discipline comes from doing it ANYWAY, no matter how you feel. A really good way to establish this is to join or start a Bible study group.
- It helps when you have a commitment to other people to stay on track. Eventually, studying the Bible will be a way of life that you don't have to fight so hard to do.

Bible Study Scenarios

- Bible study can be a great social event for believers. Group Bible studies in our homes is a wonderful way for people to learn but also the bonds formed when people meet to study the Word are strong.
- Bible Study Partners – grab a partner and meet once a week or every other week and study the Bible together.
- You and the Holy Ghost – or study the Word by yourself with the help of the Holy Spirit!
- Whatever format you choose to use, I encourage you to jump in with both feet and start growing in the Lord!

The Topical Bible Study Method-Format

- The Topical Bible Study Method is just what the name implies: study by topics. You take a subject or topic and study that from Genesis to Revelation.
- This is a great format for a Group Bible Study because everyone can begin digging in their Bibles and then sharing what was discovered at the end of the study.
- If you are preparing a teaching, this is a great format to use to prepare.

The Topical Bible Study Method-Tools

- There are several tools you will need to do this type of Bible study:
 - ▣ A journal or notebook
 - ▣ Pens & highlighters
 - ▣ A good concordance or a computer with internet for online concordances and Bible versions
 - ▣ A couple of different Bible versions such as the Amplified or the Literal translation.
 - ▣ A good Study Bible—there are many out there so do some research on the best one to get.

Now you are ready to start the Topical Bible Study Method.

The Topical Bible Study Method-Step 1

- Step 1- PRAY FOR A TOPIC
 - As with anything else in the kingdom of God, we need to always be led by the Holy Spirit. Don't just pick a topic off the top of your head. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT what He wants you to study on. So begin your Bible study with prayer asking for direction and a topic.
 - You will sense a topic rising in your spirit. He'll tell you; just wait for it.

The Topical Bible Study Method-Step 2

- Step 2 – BEGIN THE SCRIPTURE SEARCH
 - Once the Holy Spirit gives you a topic to study, you are now ready to begin searching the scriptures on this topic. He may even give you a scripture to start with!
 - If not, go to your concordance either in the back of your study Bible or use an exhaustive concordance such as Strong's.
 - When you find the topic in the concordance, start in the Old Testament and work your way to Revelation on this topic.

The Topical Bible Study Method-Step 3

□ Step 3 – GATHERING THE NUGGETS

- Hidden in the Word of God are “nuggets” of Truth that will be revealed as you study the Word.
- Here are the steps to gather the nuggets as you go through the Bible on this topic.
 - Go to the first scripture, read and meditate on it. Really think about it’s meaning for a minute.
 - Read any commentary on this verse from the Study Bible’s commentary section. Write down any “nuggets” the Holy Spirit shows you.
 - Look for any related scriptures next to the verse and write them down in your notebook.
 - Look up the associated scriptures and think about them for a minute. Write down any nuggets the Holy Spirit shows you.
 - Continue to look scriptures up through the entire Bible from your concordance and the related scriptures and commentaries until you reach the end of the topic in the concordance or you run out of time and energy to continue for the time being.
 - You will be amazed at how much you will learn digging through the Word like this!

The Topical Bible Study Method-Step 4

□ Step 4—REVIEWING THE NUGGETS

- After you have reached the stopping point or the end of the topic, set everything down and go back through your notes and read what the Lord has shown you in the Bible study time.
- If you are in a study group or with a partner, let each person share what nuggets the Holy Spirit showed them.
- Write down in your notebook the nuggets that “jump out” at you during this time.

The Chapter “Gleaning” Study Method- Format

- The Chapter “Gleaning” method is one that really involves the Holy Spirit. He is the one who tells you which chapter in which book of the Bible to glean.
- This method can be done in a group setting, with a partner or by yourself. It is a great format to you by yourself with just you and the Holy Spirit. A time when He can really open the scriptures to you.

The Chapter “Gleaning” Study Method Tools

- As with any other Bible study method, you will need the following tools:
 - ▣ Pens & highlighters
 - ▣ A notebook
 - ▣ Study Bible & other versions of the Bible
 - ▣ Online Bible Study tool and/or Exhaustive Concordance
- These tools will help you focus and it’s fun to go back and read what the Lord has shown you during this time.

The Chapter “Gleaning” Study Method-

Step 1

- Step 1 – Get a Chapter from the Holy Spirit
 - This Bible study method absolutely is a direct interaction between you and the Holy Spirit because you can’t get started without Him telling you what chapter to glean!
 - What does “glean” mean?
 - **extract (information) from various sources. "the information is gleaned from press clippings"**
synonyms:obtain, get, take, draw, derive, extract, cull, garner, gather;
 - **To gather (grain) left behind by reapers. To collect bit by bit.**
 - The first thing you do is to set up all your tools (notebook, study Bible, other Bible versions, your computer set to online Bible tools, pens and highlighters).
 - The second thing you do is to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to come and teach you out of the Word and ask Him to tell you what book and chapter He wants you to glean.

The Chapter “Gleaning” Study Method

Step 2

- Step 2 – Start Gleaning!
 - The first thing you do is go to the book and chapter the Holy Spirit tells you He wants you to glean out of.
 - Second read the first verse and think on it a minute.
 - Third look for any commentary in your study Bible. Then look for any associated scriptures listed and go look them up.
 - Look up the verse in multiple versions of the Bible such as the Young’s Literal Bible, the Amplified or the Greek Hebrew Study Bible.
 - Fourth write down anything that “jumps” out at you or you know the Holy Spirit is showing you in your notebook.
 - Follow this process on the second verse and on until you reach the end of the chapter.

The Chapter “Gleaning” Study Method

Step 3

- Step 3 – Reviewing the “Nuggets”
 - Now it’s time to review all the “nuggets” of truth the Holy Spirit has revealed to you during the gleaning of the chapter!
 - If you are in a group Bible study, everyone should share what He has said to them. As they share, write down what they said to meditate on it later.
 - If you are alone, just read over everything and meditate and talk the to the Holy Spirit about it in prayer. Ask Him to help you apply it to your life in a practical way.

It's Bible Study Time!

- Now we are going to actually do a Bible study using the two methods discussed here tonight.
 - ▣ The Topical Bible Study Method
 - ▣ The Chapter Gleaning Study Method
- We have 2 tables set up and each table is going to do one of the Bible study methods for 30 minutes.
- Then each table is going to switch methods for another 30 minutes.
- Then we are going to share the “nuggets” that the Lord showed us during the study time.

It's Bible Study Time!

- Table 1 in front is going to do The Topical Bible Study Method for the first 30 minute segment.
- Table 2 in back with do the Chapter Gleaning Study Method for the first 30 minute segment.
- After 30 minutes, each table will then do a different Bible study using the other study method.
 - Table 1 will now do the Chapter Gleaning Study Method.
 - Table 2 will now do the Topical Study Method

After 30 minutes, we'll share any nuggets the Lord showed us during the last 30 minutes.

Remember to write down in your notebook ANY nuggets that jump out at you as people share theirs!

Here We Go!

- I asked the Lord what topics He wanted us to dig for and what chapters He wants us to glean tonight.
 - ▣ First 30 Minutes
 - Table 1 – Rest in the Lord: Be Content – Topical Study
 - Table 2 – Revelation Chapter 2 – Gleaning Study
 - ▣ Second 30 Minutes
 - Table 1 – Isaiah Chapter 53 – Gleaning Study
 - Table 2 – Mustard Seed Faith – Topical Study
 - ▣ Pastor Larry is Table 1's leader
 - ▣ Pastor Katy is Table 2's leader
 - ▣ I am the floater...I will be here to answer any questions or help in any way.