

# Why Should We Study God's Word

The Basic Purpose Of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16-17)

*-Think of a train traveling down a track*

1. **Teaching** (shows where the track is)
2. **Reproof** (shows where you got off the track)
3. **Correction** (how to get back on the track)
4. **Training in Righteousness** (how to stay on the track)
5. **Equipped for Ministry** (how to help others find and stay on the track)

Some of the reasons to study God's Word

1. **Spiritual prosperity and success** . Joshua 1:8
- 2.- **Wiser than enemies, more insight than teachers, know more than the aged.**  
Ps 119:98-100
- 3.- **To grow spiritually.** 1 Pet 2:2
- 4.- **Illuminates the way to go.** Ps 119:105
- 5.- **Powerful in prayer because we know God's heart.** Jn 15:7

# How to Begin Studying God's Word

- Decide which translations, Study Bible, and other resources you will need to use.
  - some of the basic resources you will need for personal Bible Study include: Concordance, Bible Dictionary, Study Bible (can be helpful), Commentary (use when you have to), Notebook.
  
- Decide on a definite course or plan of study.

When you begin to study a book or passage of scripture, follow these basic guidelines to gain a deeper and more accurate understanding.

1. Read the passage several times in various translations. Note interesting or significant differences in the translations.
2. Observe paragraph, sentence and punctuation structures. Compare translations.
3. Outline the passage, paragraph, chapter, and or book.
4. Note key words, phrases, and themes
  - which words, phrases, and themes stand out
  - which ones are repeated
  - which are unusual
5. Study the background information
  - Author, date, original recipients, historical setting, etc...
6. Significance - What's it mean?
  - Summarize the truth claims
  - Point out the faith issues
7. Application is paramount.
  - This is the most important part of Bible study. Application answers the question, "What am I going to do as a result of this study?"
  
  - Application should be at least three things:
    1. Measurable - be specific and design a way to measure your progress.
  
    2. Attainable - Set a goal that is challenging, but not too hard. You don't want to become frustrated and give.
  
    3. Accountable - Ask someone you trust to hold you accountable to your application. Give them permission to stick their nose into your spiritual business.

## **Five Methods of Personal Bible Study**

### **1) Biographical Study**

- the study of a specific person of the Bible.

- a. Start with a person that is easy to do.
- b. Make a list of verses that mention them. Refer to different translations.
- c. Put verses in chronological order.
  - an outline of their life
- d. List your impressions and insights of their life and actions.
- e. Identify character qualities, both good and bad.
- f. Write out personal application based on impressions, insights and character qualities.
- g. Memorize key verses that surround their life.
- h. Good questions to ask when doing a Biographical study may center around: reputation, tests of character, person's history and background, significant events in their life, their relationships, and spiritual life.

### **2) Book Background & Survey Study**

- gives an basic overview and understanding of the books of the Bible and their major themes.

- a. Read book in at least 3 translations.
  - In the first reading, discover the major theme of the book.
  - In the second reading, note how the author develops the theme
    - what key words and phrases does he use?
  - In the third reading, construct an outline of the book.
- d. Research background information.
  - purpose, author, recipients, date, historical context, etc...
- e. Write out personal application
- f. Memorize key verses or chapters.

### **3) Verse-By-Verse Book Study**

- provides in-depth study and analysis of a book of the Bible.

- a. Read book in at least 2-3 translations.
- b. As you read, make note of major themes and key verses.
- c. Develop your own outline of the book.
- d. Research background information.

- purpose, author, recipients, date, historical context, etc...
- e. List your Questions, Observations, Cross References, and any Notes you have about each verse. (*developing a chart for this is often helpful*)
- f. Do word studies on significant words.
- g. Write out personal application
- h. Memorize key verses.

#### 4) Topical Study

- follows a certain topic through out a book or the entire Bible.
- a. Choose a topic then put together a list of words that relate to the topic.
- b. Using resources (such as a concordance or Bible dictionary), look up your words and compile a list of verses that deal with the topic.
- c. Review your verses in at least 2-3 translations.
- d. Compare your verses and organize them into groups or categories
- e. Write down your observations and insights.
- f. Write out personal application
- g. Memorize key verses.

#### 5) Devotional Study

- the purpose of this study is to guide you to meditation and introspection about your relationship with God, and to promote spiritual growth.
- a. Read passage 3-4 times.
- b. Identify key words, phrases, and themes
- c. Paraphrase the passage into your own words.
- d. Meditate on the verses of the passage.
- e. Ask questions to personalize the passage such as:
  - What am I to believe as a result of this passage?
  - What am I to do as a result?
    - are there actions or attitudes that need to change?
  - How does the passage speak to my relationships
  - What promises do I see?
  - In what ways do I now have a greater view of who God is?
  - What steps do I need to take to deepen my walk with God?
- f. Stay true to the background and context of the passage.
- g. Does this passage lead to other verses to meditate on
- h. Write out personal application
- i. Memorize key verses.

# Biographical Study Guide

Name of Person:

Scripture References:

Outline of their life:

Impressions and Insights:

Character Qualities:

Personal Application:

Memorization:

# Book Background & Survey Study Guide

Book:

Major theme:

Key Words/Phrases:

Outline of the Book:

Background Information:

- Author:

- Date:

- Recipients:

- Historical Setting:

Personal Application:

Memorization:

# Verse-by-Verse Study Guide (Part 1)

Book:

Major theme:

Key Words/Phrases:

Outline of the Book:

Background Information:

- Author:

- Date:

- Recipients:

- Historical Setting:

Personal Application:

## Verse-by-Verse Study Guide (Part 2)

Observations	Questions	Cross References	Notes

Personal Application for each paragraph or chapter:

Memorization:

# Topical Study Guide

Topic:

List of words related to topic:

Verses

Insights from Verses

Categories under the topic:

Personal Application:

Memorization:

# Devotional Study Guide

Passage:

Date:

Key Words/Phrases:

My Paraphrase:

Insights from Meditation:

Personal Application:

Memorization: