

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 4:12

"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

We have already discussed the Bible and the importance of studying and meditating on the word of God. Read the following scriptures and list some more reasons why it is important to study the Bible.

1. Psalm 19:7-9

2. Hebrews 4:12

3. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

4. Psalm 119:105

5. Luke 4:1-13

We will now answer some questions and give some practical application for effectively studying the Bible.

What is devotional Bible study?

The best way to study God's word is to read it carefully with prayer and to meditate on it until it becomes a part of your daily living. To meditate means "to reflect, to ponder, to consider, to dwell in thought, to utter or to mutter (to oneself)." As you continually meditate on God's word it will sink into both your mind and heart and you will be transformed (Romans 12:2).

What are some practical suggestions for devotional reading and study of the Bible??

A. Begin with prayer. (Psalm 119:18; John 16:13,15)

B. Ask yourself the following questions as you read:
(All of these questions may not be answered in every passage.)

1. What is the main subject of this passage?
2. Who are the people included in this passage?
3. What is the key verse of this passage?

4. What does this passage teach me about the Lord Jesus Christ?
5. Is there any sin for me to confess and forsake in this passage?
6. Is there any command for me to obey in this passage?
7. Is there any promise for me to claim?
8. Is there any instruction for me to follow?
9. Is there any prayer that I should pray?

C. Memorize and meditate on passages of God's Word.

As you meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit will help you apply it to your life and its problems. It is good to meditate on Scripture every night before you go to sleep in order to allow your subconscious mind to review God's Word even as you sleep.

D. Obey the Word of God. (James 1:22)

What are 7 methods of systematic Bible study?

A. Bible Study by Chapters

1. Find the chapter's main subject or subjects and give it a title.
2. Make a simple outline.
3. Ask the questions listed above.

B. Bible Study by Paragraphs
(Often called Analytical Bible Study)

1. Read the paragraph carefully for its main thought or subject.
2. Rewrite the text in your own words.
3. Make a simple outline.
4. Look up important words.

C. Bible Study by Verses

1. Study the individual verbs and nouns.
2. Study the personalities revealed.
3. Study the great ideas included.

D. Bible Study by Books

1. Read through the book to get the mood and general emphasis.
2. Reread the book many times, each time emphasizing a different question, such as:

What is the central theme?
 How is the theme emphasized and developed in the book?
 What does this book tell me about the author and his circumstances?
 What does the book tell me about the people to whom it was written?
 What are the main divisions of the book?
 What does this book speak to me today?
 How can I apply the message in this book to my life? Etc.

E. Bible Study by Words

Trace the use of a word through the Old and New Testament. (A good concordance is **very** helpful)
Look back to the original Greek or Hebrew definition of the word

F. Bible Study by Topics

Study the great topics or subjects in the Bible such as prayer, the Lordship of Christ, the power of God, the love of God, the church, Bible promises, commands of the Lord, prayer, healing, spiritual gifts, the Great Commission, etc.

G. Bible Study through Biography

Study a Bible character by reading both direct and indirect references to him or her. This may be an entire book of the Bible or a smaller passage

Bible Study tools:

Concordance

Atlas

Dictionary- English and Greek/Hebrew

Amplified Bible

Several different translations of the Bible