



Week 1 Beginner's Guide to Studying the Bible

How to Study the Bible

1. Choose a translation you understand.
2. Choose a time, a place, and a plan to study.
3. Understand the context.
4. Read slowly and ask questions.
5. Pray for God to speak to you, and apply what He shows you.

For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother. ⁸Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient ... Philemon 1:7-8 KJV

1. Choose a _____ you understand.
NIV – New International Version
NLT – New Living Translation
NKJV – New King James Version
ESV – English Standard Version
2. Choose a _____, a place, and a plan to study.
3. Understand the _____.

The Bible Is ...

- A collection of _____ different books.
- Written in three languages.
- Across three continents.
- Over a 1,500-year time period.
- By _____ different authors.

It's a collection of poems, prophecies, letters, laws, histories, and biographies, written by people and inspired by God, telling one unified story that shows us our need for Jesus and teaches us to become like Him.

- Who wrote it?
- To whom was it written?
- What is its purpose?



Together at your table read discuss and answer the following questions:

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker²... and to the church that meets in your home ... Philemon 1:1-2 NIV

- Philemon was written by _____ (from a Roman prison) to a man named _____, who led a church in his home.

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ... ⁷Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. Philemon 1:4-5, 7 NIV

- Do these 3 verses speak flattery or encouragement? _____
Discuss your answer with your group.

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Philemon 1:8-10 NIV

- It was written about _____, a runaway slave who had stolen from Philemon.
- Paul in _____ and Paul led Onesimus to Christ.
- Paul's purpose was to encourage _____ to forgive Onesimus and accept him as a brother in Christ.

Formerly [Onesimus] was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.
Philemon 1:11 NIV

Lets dive back into the message:

4. Read slowly and ask questions. SPECK

- Is there a _____ to be avoided?
- Is there a _____ to be claimed?
- Is there an _____ to follow?
- Is there a _____ to obey?
- Is there something to _____ about God?

5. Pray for God to speak to you, and apply what He shows you.

Instead of asking God "Why?" ask God "What?"