



Session 6: Understanding the Bible

Why Study the Bible

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect

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God's word to common situations

1. We are taken advantage of or attacked by an enemy

Matthew 5:43 But I say unto you, love you enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

2. Giving to the poor or doing something good.

Matthew 6:3-4 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you

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God's word to common situations

3. Shortage of money, clothes and/or food. Job insecurity

Matthew 6:25-34 Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow,

Philippians 4:6-7,19 Be anxious for nothing. With thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And my God shall supply all your needs.

John 14:1: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

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God's word to common situations

4. Conflict with spouse, family, co-workers, or neighbours.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ Jesus also has forgiven you.

5. I can't do it! I can't take it anymore!

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

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God's word to common situations

6. Political Preference

1 Tim 2:1-2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Jame 3:10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

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Gods thought patterns versus the worlds



God's thoughts

Philippians 4:8 - Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

World thoughts

What is wrong, evil, impure, unclean, ugly, despised, and not worthy of mention.

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Bible Survey



- Word 'testament' means 'covenant' or 'agreement,' and thus, the Bible is divided into two testaments
- God has made two covenants or agreements with humankind.
- The new testament, or agreement through faith in Christ,
- The old testament or covenant, which was the law of Moses.

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Old Testament



Old Testament contains 39 books

1. Pentateuch contains the first 5 books of the Bible
2. Historical Books include 12 books
3. Poetic and Wisdom Books includes 5 Books
4. 5 Major Prophets
5. 12 Minor Prophets

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Old Testament



Pentateuch	Books of History	Books of Poetry	Minor Prophets
Books of Moses	• Joshua	• Job	• Hosea
• Genesis	• Judges	• Psalms	• Joel
• Exodus	• Ruth	• Proverbs	• Amos
• Leviticus	• 1 & 2 Samuel	• Ecclesiastes	• Obadiah
• Numbers	• 1 & 2 Kings	• Song of Solomon	• Jonah
• Deuteronomy	• 1 & 2 Chronicles	Major Prophets	• Micah
	• Ezra	• Isaiah	• Nahum
	• Nehemiah	• Jeremiah	• Habakkuk
	• Esther	• Lamentations	• Zephaniah
		• Ezekiel	• Haggai
		• Daniel	• Zechariah
			• Malachi

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Prophet	Prophesied To	Dates (B.C.)
Jonah	Assyria	Before Captivity (800-650)
Nahum	Assyria	Before Captivity (800-650)
Obadiah	Edom	Before Captivity (800)
Hosea	Israel	Before Captivity (750)
Amos	Israel	Before Captivity (750)
Isaiah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Jeremiah/ Lamentations	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Joel	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Micah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Habakkuk	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Zephaniah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Ezekiel	Judah	During Captivity (606-536)
Daniel	Judah	During Captivity (606-536)
Haggai	Judah	After Captivity (536-400)
Zachariah	Judah	After Captivity (536-400)
Malachi	Judah	After Captivity (536-4C)

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Bible Survey



Exodus 34:27

And the Lord said to Moses, Write these words in accordance with these words. I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.

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New Testament

The New Testament contains 27 books written between approximately AD 45 and 95. The books fall into 5 categories

1. The 4 Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – which recount Jesus's birth, life, teachings, death, and resurrection
2. Acts – an account of the early church after Jesus's ascension
3. Pauline Epistles – letters written by Paul to provide teaching and encouragement to early Christians
4. General Epistles – letters written by church leaders like James and Peter to provide teaching and encouragement to early Christians
5. Revelation – an apocalyptic vision of the end times received by the apostle John



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New Testament

The Gospels

- Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John
- ### History
- Acts
- ### Paul's Letters
- Romans
 - 1 Corinthians
 - 2 Corinthians
 - Galatians

- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon
- Hebrews

General Letters

- James
 - 1 Peter
 - 2 Peter
 - 1 John
 - 2 John
 - 3 John
 - Jude
- ### Prophecy
- Revelation



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The Gospels

Luke 1:1-4 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely, for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.

John 20:30-31 Many other signs therefore, Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book, but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



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Acts

Acts 1:1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.



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The Epistles

1 Thessalonians 5:27 I adjure you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brethren.

Colossians 4:16 And when this letter has been read among you have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and see that you Read also the letter from Laodicea.



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Revelation

Revelation 1:1-2 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants what must soon take place; and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.



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Bible Languages

The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew, a Semitic language that is written from right to left and has no vowels in the text. Some small portions of the Old Testament are in Aramaic,

The New Testament was written in a common vernacular form of Greek since this was the written language known by the largest number of people in the Near East in the first century. The New Testament also contains some Aramaic and Latin words.

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Manuscripts

Old Testament - There are about 1700 Hebrews copies of all or parts of the Old Testament as well as 350 copies of it in a Greek translation (Septuagint), dating back to about 900 AD, or about 1300 years after the OT was completed.

New Testament - There are 4000 Greek, 8000 Latin, and 1000 other copies of all or parts of the New Testament, dating mostly to about 300 AD. Some fragments, however, go back to 120 AD, only 30 years after John wrote his Gospel.

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Inspiration of God

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:20-21

First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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Biblical proofs

1. Historical:
2. Prophetical. The Bible has accurately predicted many historical events:

Isaiah 11:11 On that day, the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

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Biblical proofs

2. Prophetical. The Bible has accurately predicted many historical events:

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Psalms 16:9-11 Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. 10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay

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Biblical proofs

3. Scientific. The Bible has often made statements contrary to man's theories and has been proven correct as man learns more

The world is a sphere. Isaiah 40:21-22

The earth hangs on nothing. Job 26:7

4. Ability to change the lives of individuals as well as produce social reform
5. It has survived
6. Personal Testimony: personal experience of countless thousands of believers, the promises of God's Word have been fulfilled.

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Bible Study



John 8:31

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples."

John 15:1-8

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

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Quiet Time



I Chronicles 16:11 Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually.

II Chronicles 12:14 And he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.

II Chronicles 27:6 So Jotham became mighty because he ordered his ways before the Lord his God

Ps 27:8 My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek.

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Quiet Time



Mark 1:35

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed

Psalms 63:1

A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah. You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

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Guidelines for a Quiet Time



1. I write down what I would like to talk to the Lord in my Journal
2. I quiet my heart and focus my eyes on the Lord and wait until I feel his presence and I see him
3. I thank the Lord for his time. I thank him for the things he has done for me the day before
4. I praise Him
5. I pray for the things that are on my heart and pray for others
6. I ask him what He would like to say to me today and journal what He says
7. I ask him for a Bible verse and read the verse he gives me
8. I often read a chapter of the bible that I have chosen.
9. I do a word study on any words I am not sure what they mean
10. I thank Him for his time.

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Bible Study Method



Exposition, that is, expose or explain.

1. Observation: What does it say?
2. Interpretation: What does it mean?
3. Application: What does it mean to me?
4. Meditation: What would the Lord say to you about the verse?
5. Memorization: Hide the word of the Lord in your heart
6. Pray that your discoveries will have a positive impact on your life.

Bible Hub is an excellent tool for this:
https://biblehub.com/2_timothy/2-15.htm

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Meditation



Psalms 119:97

O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

Ps 1:2

but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Meditate: The Hebrew word hagah

To meditate, to murmur, to ponder, to speak, to utter, imagine, devise,

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Meditation

Joshua 1:8

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful..

Psalm 1:2,3

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers

Psalm 104:34

My meditation of Him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord

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Results of Meditation

1. You will be prosperous and successful.
2. You will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water.
3. You will yield fruit in season.
4. Your leaves will not wither.
5. Whatever you do will prosper.
6. You will be glad in the Lord.

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Memorization

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you..

Psalm 119:16

I shall delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word..

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Results of Memorization

1. The Word of God will dwell within you richly
Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
2. You will know what the bible says and will begin to do it
Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Results of Memorization

3. The thought patterns of your mind will be transformed.
Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
4. We will be transformed in the same image as the Lord
2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

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Personal Application: Journaling Exercise

Father, what would you like to say to me about reading the Bible?

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