

How to Study the Bible

I suggest starting with the KJV or ESV

Steps

1. Choose a Passage to Study
2. Discover
3. Investigate
4. Visualize
5. Engage

1. Choose a Passage

Pick a passage that pops out in your reading. Pray and ask God to:

- Guide you.
- Teach you the truth.
- Give you understanding.
- Let you be alert to the Holy Spirit

2. Steps of Discover

- a) Gather Background Information
- b) Get the Context
- c) Key Word Studies
- d) Find Cross References
- e) Write any Thoughts/ Truths
- f) Write any questions you have

a) Gather Background Information

Answer Questions:

- Who is the Author?
- Who are the Recipient's?
- What is the Literary Style?
- When was it written?
 - pre-fall, pre-flood, after mosaic law, during Christ's earthly ministry, after his resurrection, or after Pentecost

b) Understand the Context

Context - the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning.

Reread the verses, chapters and book this passage is in.

Ask Questions like:

- Who is speaking?
- Who are the recipients?
- Who is this about?
- Figures of speech?
- When is this happening?
- What is the subject?
- Where are they?

Bible Translation Comparisons

Gather multiple Bible Translations of the Verse you are verse mapping and examine the differences in word choices.

- At least 3 additional ones.
(I recommend ESV, CSB, NLT)

(My Primary Study Versions - King James Version and ESV)

c) Key Word Studies

Key words capture the essence of the topic

- Get the Strong's Number
- Look at Part of Speech
 - Look up words on Blue Letter Bible
- Define the word
 - Merriam-webster dictionary and Bible Dictionary

d) Find Cross References

A Cross Reference is a verse(s) that has a similar theme or topic.

- Cross references in your bible
- Blue letter Bible

e) Thoughts/ Truths

Write down any:

- Thoughts to remember
- Truths that come out of the scripture
- Any thing that God brings to your mind

f) Questions

Write down any:

- Questions you have about the passage

3. Investigate

Investigate – to study or inquire about something systematically to discover the truth, facts, or underlying causes.

Take your discovery and explain the meaning and truth about the passage.

- This is where you bring out commentaries and other resources to help you with getting to the truth of the passage.

4. Visualize

- Visualize yourself in this passage

Things to ask:

- Is there any Sin to Forsake?
- Is there a Promise to claim?
- Is there a Command to Obey?
- Is there any Truth to Believe?

5. Engage

Engage with God

- Prayer
 - Repent, Claim, Praise, Give Thanks
- What do I Need to do differently or change to bring into action what God has revealed to me?
- What is God saying to me right now, in this season I am in right now?

Resources

- Blue Letter Bible app or a Concordance
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Bible Dictionary

I pray this Guide encourages you to dig deeper into God's Word. I pray you continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and He give you understanding, knowledge, and wisdom in all things.

Yours In Christ,

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