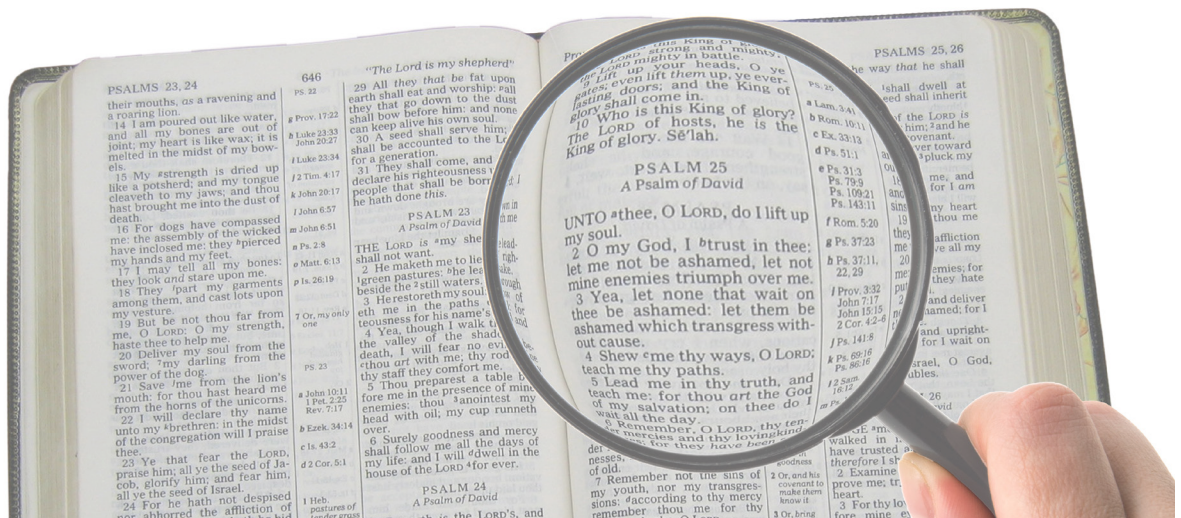




BIBLE CENTER
CHURCH

CORE CLASS

HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE



Welcome!



With great excitement, we launch our Core Classes. We start by focusing on how to read, interpret, and apply God's Word.

Throughout the year, we will be providing several classes. Most classes will require outside reading, attendance, and participation. We are asking God to use these classes to develop and deepen our existing leaders and to raise up new leaders.

Our leaders are asked to come, future leaders are encouraged to come, and everyone is invited to come.

We would like to help attenders become confident, spiritual self-feeders while also increasing our number of teachers and spiritual leaders within the church.

We are excited you are here!! Let's approach God's throne together with humility asking Him to convict us, grow us, and use us. May He be glorified and may our community be changed.

For the Gospel and for the City,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Graham".

Mike Graham,
Pastor of Group Life

INTRODUCING CORE CLASSES

Rejuvenate your spiritual life! Share your faith more easily! And dig deeper into the Bible! Bible Center will begin offering core classes to continue forming and building our foundation and direction around Scripture.

Through these classes, we want to help believers to become faithful disciples established in the faith and to be fruitful witnesses equipped to do ministry.

Classes Include:

How to Study the Bible
Spiritual Growth and Renewal
How to Reach Your Neighbor
Developing a Theological Vision
Bible Study Methods
The Gospel
Worship
Biblical Doctrines
Reaching the City
and More...

We will offer:

- 2 one-night intensives per year
- 2-3 six-to-ten-week classes per year (offered at multiple times on Thursdays).

For more info on these classes, contact:

Pastor Mike
mgraham@BibleCenterChurch.com

Sheri Skidmore
sskidmore@BibleCenterChurch.com

(304) 346-0431



BIBLE CENTER
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What We Believe About the Bible

God's Words through human authors (Fully Inspired)

The Process – “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways” (Hebrews 1:1).

- God's Hand – 10 Commandments
- Dictation – “Thus says the Lord”
- Vision – Ezekiel, Daniel, Revelation: “write in a book what you see...”
- Recording of oral traditions – Narratives
- Ordinary process of historical research – Luke 1:1-3
- Letters written with particular intent and purpose
- Uses human authors, through their understanding, style, and experiences

All Processes end with the same result of **God-breathed words**. “It is our contention here that inspiration involved God's directing the thoughts of the writers, so that they were precisely the thoughts that He wished expressed” (Erickson, 216).

Authority – “The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God” (Grudem, 73). (God-breathed/plenary inspiration)

Inerrancy – Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

- Includes truthfulness of everyday speech (approximating numbers)
- Can include loose quotations – historically, “an accurate citation of another person needed to include only a correct representation of the content of what the person said (Koine Greek doesn't even have quotation marks)” (Erickson).
- Inerrancy is included even with strange or awkward grammatical constructions (Peter even thought that Paul was hard to understand).
- More than infallible (often meaning true in faith and practice only). The Bible is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16), completely pure (Ps. 12:6), perfect (Ps. 119:96), and true (Prov. 30:5). Confirmed by Jesus (Luke 24:25, Mt. 5:18).
- How can we say this with no original documents? With “over 99% of the words of the Bible, we know what the original manuscript said” (Grudem, 96).

Write your notes
in the margins!



Sufficiency – “The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contains all the words of God that He intended His people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the Words of God we need for salvation, for trusting Him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly” (Grudem, 127) (2 Tim. 3:17).

What about...

- A broken bone?
- My math homework?
- A broken relationship?
- A chemical imbalance?

A Plague

Many Christians are clueless when comes to how to study, interpret, and apply the Bible.

Symptoms:

1. Much of our knowledge comes from what we have heard about the Bible.

- A. Information comes from preachers, books, rumors, and Christian radio
- B. We have a selective, second-hand account of the Bible’s teachings
- C. Consequences:
 - We only know about the parts we’ve listened to.
 - We can disregard parts which we do not find interesting.
 - We don’t know about the validity or reliability of what we have been told.

2. We go to the Bible to meet needs of the moment.

- A. Felt needs can guide our reading.
- B. My reading plan is based on my need of the moment.
- C. I fit the Bible into my story rather than fitting my life into His story.
- D. Consequences:
 - We can lack an understanding of the whole picture.

- We have a limited view of God and how He works with His people.
- My life path determines my view and understanding of God and His Word, not the other way around.
- I miss tons of things that I will need to know, understand, and apply for my unknown tomorrow.

3. We go to Scripture with an agenda or to win an argument.

- A. Theological debates, preference debates, and opinion-based debates are foremost in our mind.
- B. Political agendas and preferences could guide our interpretation and point of view over Scripture.
- C. I want God's Word to prove that I'm right (rather than proving that He is right).
- D. Consequences
 - We can stretch meaning and application to make our point.
 - We do not connect thoughts back to the whole story.
 - The Word becomes putty in our hands instead of an unalterable Word that shapes our life.
 - We become selective, slanted, and further one-sided.

4. We use personal experience and preferences to interpret Scripture.

- A. We are often not even aware of how our gender, social status, economic status, political affiliation, stage of life, ethnic background, and career shapes the way we view the world, others, and God's Word.
- B. I often first read the Bible for me and from my point of view.
- C. Consequences
 - The Bible bends around my limited point of view rather than my point of view is bent around the Bible.

- We miss out on God's intentions for God's words.
- We miss out on life change.

5. We read to increase knowledge rather than for transformation into the likeness of Christ.

- A. Christian maturity is measured by breadth and width of biblical knowledge.
- B. A classroom Christianity mindset is developed.
- C. Consequences
 - Head can become separated from heart.
 - Maturity is measured differently than how God measures it (Mark 12:30-31).
 - Truth without love (Ephesians 4:15) or grace (John 1:14; 17) can be more detrimental than helpful. We direct others from an ivory tower.
 - Classrooms are valued over mission.
 - We can become disconnected from the world around us.

The Reality: Each One of Us are Interpreters!

As we read the Bible, we will always draw out a meaning and develop a personal interpretation of the application. From this interpretation, we will discern how to apply the passage to our lives. This application will affect our lives and the lives of everyone we come in contact with throughout our day.

You are already interpreting everything around you all the time. You are analyzing sources, slants, authority, purpose, reliability, and relevance as you take in information.

Would you ever turn on Teletubbies to get caught up on current events? Why not? (purpose, authority, relevance)

How would you assess your news depending upon whether you turned on Fox or MSNBC? (source, slant, reliability)

Should we use *New Yorker* political cartoons to determine how we vote? (source, purpose)

If we need help writing a play about a young couple trying to make it in the early 1800s would we reference *Sports*

Illustrated, our favorite memes, or fictional 1800s literature? (relevance)

Some are drawn to find uniqueness in their interpretations. Usually comes from one of three things:

1. Personal agenda
2. Pride – wanting to find something no one else has found
3. False understanding of spirituality

The Need: Correct Interpretation!

The aim of good interpretation to get at the plain meaning of the text. Correct interpretation brings relief to the mind as well as a prick or prod to the heart. One of the main tools in our task will be common sense. We don't have to commit intellectual suicide to be a Christian or live out the Christian life.

What do the following verses mean?

“Look at the nations and watch and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if you were told.”

– HABAKKUK 1:5

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

– JEREMIAH 29:11

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door I will come in and eat with him, and him with Me.”

– REVELATION 3:20

“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

– MATTHEW 5:29

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”

– PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Why are these verses so hard to interpret and understand?

The Cure

3 Vaccinations – Exegesis, Hermeneutics & Genre

“The believing scholar insists that the biblical texts first of all must mean what they originally meant. That is, we believe that God’s Word for us today is first of all precisely what His Word was to them. Thus, we have two tasks: First, to find out what the text originally meant; this task is called **exegesis**. Second, we must learn to hear that same meaning in the variety of new or different contexts of our own day; we call this second task **hermeneutics**” (Stuart). Third, we must recognize and understand the genre in which each verse is found along with the rules of interpretation for finding the correct intended meaning within each genre.

Exegesis = Then • Hermeneutics = Now • Genre = How

Shot #1: Exegesis

The task: To read the text carefully and ask the right questions.

1. What is the historical context?
2. What is the literary context?

The purpose: to find out the original authors intent / the point of the passage

1. What is the Historical context?

Some essentials to find out are:

- A. Time and culture when the book was written
- B. Geographical and topographical factors
- C. Political factors
- D. **Occasion** of the book

Why was this book written? — What is the authorial intent?... Is it stated? Implied? — Is there a problem to be solved? — Is there a false teaching or false living that needs to be handled? — What is the situation of the recipients? — How will he/they view the letter or book? — What is the existing relationship between the author and the recipients?

What do we learn both extrinsically and intrinsically about these questions?

2. What is the Literary Context?

Words only have meaning in sentences, sentences in relation to sections, and sections in relation to the whole. What happens when a pastor only preaches verse by verse and detail by detail? What happens when he only preaches the major themes?

“The most important contextual question you will ever ask, and it must be asked over and over of every sentence and every paragraph is, ‘What is the point?’ We must try to trace the author’s train of thought [where is he coming from and where is he going?]. What is the author saying and why does he say it right here? This question will vary from genre to genre, but it is always the crucial question.”

Case Study: 2 Timothy NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

Author & Date Paul introduces himself as the author at the beginning of the letter. Along with 1 Timothy and Titus, 2 Timothy is considered a Pastoral Letter. These letters were written by Paul to individuals who are ministering as young church leaders. Paul wrote 2 Timothy in 67 A.D. Paul has been released from his imprisonment referred to in Acts 28, he then continued his ministry until imprisoned again (this time in Rome) before the writing of this letter. This imprisonment is much more severe than the one referred to in Philippians 1:12-18. The prison is cold and dark and Paul is basically alone.

Occasion Paul realizes that his life is drawing to a close (2 Tim 4:6), and his life will soon be taken from him. Tradition holds that Paul actually is martyred in 67 A.D. He is now passing on part of his ministry to Timothy, who is probably serving in Ephesus.

Recipient: Timothy

- | | |
|---|---|
| » Son of Eunice | » Paul met him in Derbe (Timothy’s hometown), circumcised him, and traveled (1 Thess 3:6) |
| » Has a sincere faith (2 Tim 2:5) | » Traveled throughout Phrygia and Galatia (Acts 16:6) |
| » Seem to be around a lot of people who have fallen from the faith. This may be why Paul continually reminds him to be strong in grace and in the power of the Spirit (1 1:2, 2 1:16) | » Macedonia (Acts 17:10, 19:22) |
| » Young, but called to be an example in the faith (1 4:12) | » Is carrying on the work of the Lord (1 Cor 16:10) |
| » Seems to get sick often (1 5:23) | » Was with Paul when he wrote Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians |
| » Visited the Thessalonians (1 Thess 3:6) | » May have been held captive (Heb 13:23) |

Political Factors: Persecution at the hand of Nero All of Christianity is under attack by persecution from the Roman Empire. Nero has decided to persecute Christians at a level more intense than has ever been seen before. When Paul refers to suffering and persecution, he is referring to the possibility of being imprisoned and possibly losing your life for your faith in Christ.

Paul & Timothy's relationship as described in 2 Tim

- | | |
|--|--|
| » Paul calls Timothy his 'son'—an affectionate term (1:2) | Timothy to use his spiritual gifts (1:6) |
| » Paul wishes the best to Timothy—grace, mercy, and peace (1:2) | » Paul knows Timothy and reminds him to rekindle his gift (1:6) Paul boldly speaks truth to Timothy and encourages him (1:7) |
| » Paul gives thanks to the Lord for being entrusted with Timothy (1:3) | » Paul is a model of discipleship to Timothy by being obedient to Christ (1:8) |
| » Paul longs to spend time with Timothy and misses him (1:4) | » Paul spent a lot of time teaching Timothy sound doctrine (1:13) |
| » Timothy has cried before Paul (1:4) | » Timothy is aware of Paul's hardships (1:15) |
| » Seeing Timothy would bring Paul great joy (1:4) | |
| » Paul has an appreciation for Timothy's spiritual heritage (1:6) | |
| » Paul understands and encourages | |

Major Themes

- » Ecclesiastical qualifications and structure
- » Running the race strongly and with perseverance
- » Guarding the Word
- » Dealing head-on with false teachers

What is the point?

What is the point?

What is the point?

Shot #2: Hermeneutics

What is the meaning of the Bible in the here and now? Proper hermeneutics always begins with solid exegesis. Without the plain meaning of the text known, correct hermeneutics cannot be found. Readers will draw out personal application in any way they see fit.

- 1 Corinthians 15:29 – Mormons pray for the dead
- Mark 16:18 – Snake handlers (descriptive vs. prescriptive)

What does the Bible say about marijuana? Caffeine?

All people apply hermeneutics whether they know it or not. This is almost always the source for church division within a church or between denominations.

TOOLS FOR GOOD EXEGESIS



One or more good translations



Biblical Commentary



Bible Dictionary



Bible Handbook / Charts and Maps

Hermeneutical Rules of Thumb



Whenever we share comparable particulars with the first century setting, God's Word to us is the same as His Word to them (divisions, mission, church discipline...).



One must recognize the difference between key concepts and peripheral (the Gospel basics versus speaking in tongues).



When the particulars are not comparable, there is usually a clear principle articulated that is not given as a rule of law or command, but will be applicable in comparable situations (road rage, marijuana, public education...).



One should distinguish between what the New Testament itself sees as inherently moral (sin lists, lust...) and what is not (foot washings, women teaching...).



It is important to be able to distinguish between principles (mutual submission, love your enemy...) and direct application (no sex outside of marriage, drunkenness...).



One must take special note of items where the New Testament has a uniform and consistent witness and where it reflects differences (marriage, divorce, drinking...).



Use clear passages to help us with passages that seem unclear.



Gray areas must be allowed to remain gray and permit differences of opinion (alcohol, tongues, dancing, gambling, Sabbath...).

Of the two verses below, which do we tend to apply? Why not the other?

"When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments."

– 2 TIMOTHY 4:13

"Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

– 2 TIMOTHY 2:3

Some passages are not as obvious:

"Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him..."

– 1 CORINTHIANS 11:14

"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet."

– 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-12

Shot #3: Genre Basics

Hermeneutical rules apply differently in different genres.

Genre refers to types of literature. What are some different genres that come to your mind? What happens if you read an instructional booklet like poetry?

What happens if you read a sci-fi novel like a historical documentary?

God uses genre with intentionality. He uses it to communicate the breadth of His character and the depth of our relationship with Him. God appeals to our reason and imagination, our logic and our passion. He speaks to the minutia of life and to His great plan for the ages – incorporating our mind and our senses.

OT Historical Narrative – God is the hero!

Think of a three-layer cake...



- Narratives record what happened, not necessarily what should have happened or what ought to have happened. Therefore, not every narrative has a moral to the story. Often, we learn what not to do (1 Cor. 10:1-11).
- The actions of people in the OT are not necessarily good examples for us.
- Narratives are not written for answering all of our theological questions.



Gospels – The same story from different angles using a wide variety of genres (narrative, parable, hyperbole, similes, metaphors, poetry, questions, irony, and even prophecy).

- Each communication tool could receive its own section of explanation.
- Same stories are told in different ways, with different purposes, to different audiences (and each of these are by God's design and for His purpose).

Luke – “to give an orderly account” for Theophilus

John – “these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ”

- Jesus spoke in Aramaic and the Gospels were recorded in Greek. Jesus' words were passed on verbally before recorded.
- The authors seemed to have common sources ('Q') and some unique sources ('L')

Parables – A story with a primary audience and message in mind. Designed to be understood using examples from the audience's daily experience with a moral (or punch line) in mind.

Prophets – Forth-telling and foretelling. Covenant enforcers. They spoke from God to man (and nations) regarding blessings and curses, based on their keeping or forsaking of their covenant with God. They also spoke of a day yet to come. A great genre to use outside help!

Poetry – As in many types of Psalms. Words spoken to God (not us), yet still from God. Functions as:

- A guide in worship
- A way to learn how to relate honestly and openly to God
- Reflections and meditations about God

Wisdom – Proverbs function as practical advice, not promises.

Revelation – Apocalyptic literature. Though this is a rare form of literature today, there were dozens of well-known apocalypses recognized by Jews and Christians.

- Highly figurative. Was written for encouragement (Rev. 1:3).
- Visions are best to be seen as wholes, communicating a singular message.

- Must tread with humility and speak with open hands if we try to drill down into details. There are many differing well thought out interpretations of Revelation.

The Law – Covenant Stipulations

- All of the OT Law is still the Word of God for us, even though it does not all apply to us. Reveals God's character and intentions for Israel.
- The NT renews many of the OT laws – but points to the heart, not just the action



6 Types of Biblical Law

- » **Apodictic Law** – Generalized, direct commands (“do and don’ts”). They set a standard by example, paradigmatic in nature (Lev. 19:9-14).
- » **Casuistic Law** – Specific commands in particular (case-by-case) situations (Deut. 15:12-17). Over 600 in the OT. They have very limited, direct applicability, but we do learn of God's love for the poor, fairness, and proper treatment of employees.
- » **Food Law** – Certain foods are deemed clean and unclean for the nation of Israel. This is a temporary set of standard for a particular point in history for a particular people (Acts 10:9-16; 1 Tim. 4:4).
- » **“Shedding of Blood” Law** – Sin deserves punishment
- » **Unusual Prohibitory Laws** – specific laws to keep Israel from the cultic practices of the Canaanites
- » **Law Tied to Blessing** – ex. tithes

Application

- We might use this information to begin diagnosing others, and we can be quick to point out everyone else's flaws and bad interpretations. However, be slow to point outward and quick to check ourselves.
- Take another look at your convictions. Do they come from rightly dividing God's Word?
- How can you help those around you to better understand how to understand, teach, and apply God's Word?
- Evaluate your time in the Scriptures. Do you presently have a plan of action that will help you correctly understand, teach, and apply God's Word to your life and to those around you?



Misconceptions About Genres



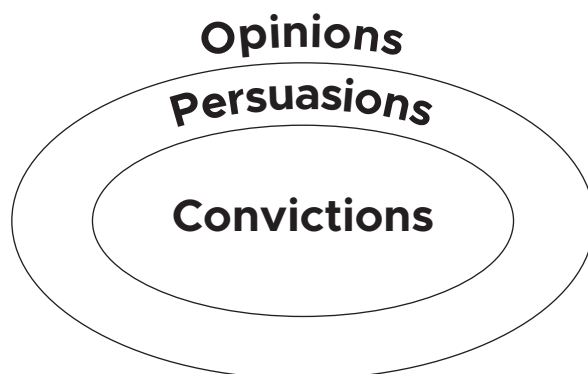
Fallacy #1: Proverbs = Promises

Fallacy #2: The OT gives us real life examples of men and women who walked with God.

Fallacy #3: The OT is full of allegories and deep hidden meanings.

Fallacy #4: The Book of Acts is a model for the church.

Results of Proper Exegesis and Hermeneutics



Convictions – Clear Biblical teaching. Especially on matters of the Gospel, the Trinity, the Deity of Christ and Salvation by grace through faith. These are issues for which we should be prepared to die!

Examples: Galatians 2, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Persuasions – “Persuasions should be subjects on which we have studied enough to develop a clear and informed view. Persuasions often don’t deal with the main themes of Scripture yet generally should be confined to subjects about which the Bible speaks.

“We can feel free to argue for our persuasions, but we should respect and cooperate with those who disagree” (Scholes, 19). These are not issues that are essential for salvation, and they do not need to divide us.

Examples: Millennial views, the role of tongues, the age of the earth, Romans 14:5

Opinions – Beliefs, desires, or even wishes that may not be clearly taught in Scripture or that may legitimately differ for various believers.

Examples: How long until Christ returns, Bible translations, style of music, dress, alcohol, chair setup, “Did Adam have a belly button?”... 1 Corinthians 7:12, 26

What happens when we treat persuasions or opinions like convictions? Does emotional intensity or connection to the topic determine its level of importance?

SUMMARY

“A conviction is a belief that is central to the Christian Gospel itself. A good test to see if a belief should be classed as a conviction is to ask, ‘If I remove this belief from my theological system, would I still leave the essential claims of the Gospel message intact?’ If the answer is yes, then that belief, no matter how firmly I believe it or how strongly I feel about it, probably should be classed as a persuasion.”



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Developing a Plan of Action

How well do you want to know the Bible in a year, in 5 years, in 10 years?

What steps are you taking now to achieve that goal? Are you personally owning this process?

Is your present approach to the Scriptures the best approach in light of your future goals?

Purpose

The purpose of a “plan of action” is to give you an idea of where to begin or how to continue in their study of the Word. A well thought out systematic plan for studying the Bible will always be the most effective way to achieve your goals.

We study to glorify God, falling more in love with Him and others. God’s Word draws us into His presence and grows us in love, holiness, and service.

1. Overview of the Bible Study Methods

- A. Simply Reading (In a year, varied books, or chronological)
- B. Thoughtfully Reading (color-coding, single page overviews)
- C. Thoughtfully and Responsively Reading (adding journaling)

2. Advanced Overview of the Bible Study Methods

- A. Book a Month Club
- B. Surveys, Systematics, & Doctrinal Studies

3. In-depth Bible Study Methods

4. Inductive Bible Study Methods

Read The Bible In A Year

	<u>The Law</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Poetry</u>	<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Gospels</u>	<u>Letters</u>
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1--	Gen 1-3	Josh 1-5	Psa 1-2	Job 1-2	Isa 1-6	Matt 1-2	Rom 1-2
Week 2--	Gen 4-7	Josh 6-10	Psa 3-5	Job 3-4	Isa 7-11	Matt 3-4	Rom 3-4
Week 3--	Gen 8-11	Josh 11-15	Psa 6-8	Job 5-6	Isa 12-17	Matt 5-7	Rom 5-6
Week 4--	Gen 12-15	Josh 16-20	Psa 9-11	Job 7-8	Isa 18-22	Matt 8-10	Rom 7-8
Week 5--	Gen 16-19	Josh 21-24	Psa 12-14	Job 9-10	Isa 23-28	Matt 11-13	Rom 9-10
Week 6--	Gen 20-23	Judg 1-6	Psa 15-17	Job 11-12	Isa 29-33	Matt 14-16	Rom 11-12
Week 7--	Gen 24-27	Judg 7-11	Psa 18-20	Job 13-14	Isa 34-39	Matt 17-19	Rom 13-14
Week 8--	Gen 28-31	Judg 12-16	Psa 21-23	Job 15-16	Isa 40-44	Matt 20-22	Rom 15-16
Week 9--	Gen 32-35	Judg 17-21	Psa 24-26	Job 17-18	Isa 45-50	Matt 23-25	1 Cor 1-2
Week 10--	Gen 36-39	Ruth	Psa 27-29	Job 19-20	Isa 51-55	Matt 26-28	1 Cor 3-4
Week 11--	Gen 40-43	1 Sam 1-5	Psa 30-32	Job 21-22	Isa 56-61	Mark 1-2	1 Cor 5-6
Week 12--	Gen 44-47	1 Sam 6-10	Psa 33-35	Job 23-24	Isa 62-66	Mark 3-4	1 Cor 7-8
Week 13--	Gen 48-50	1 Sam 11-15	Psa 36-38	Job 25-26	Jer 1-6	Mark 5-6	1 Cor 9-10
Week 14--	Ex 1-4	1 Sam 16-20	Psa 39-41	Job 27-28	Jer 7-11	Mark 7-8	1 Cor 11-12
Week 15--	Ex 5-8	1 Sam 21-25	Psa 42-44	Job 29-30	Jer 12-16	Mark 9-10	1 Cor 13-14
Week 16--	Ex 9-12	1 Sam 26-31	Psa 45-47	Job 31-32	Jer 17-21	Mark 11-12	1 Cor 15-16
Week 17--	Ex 13-16	2 Sam 1-4	Psa 48-50	Job 33-34	Jer 22-26	Mark 13-14	2 Cor 1-3
Week 18--	Ex 17-20	2 Sam 5-9	Psa 51-53	Job 35-36	Jer 27-31	Mark 15-16	2 Cor 4-5
Week 19--	Ex 21-24	2 Sam 10-14	Psa 54-56	Job 37-38	Jer 32-36	Luke 1-2	2 Cor 6-8
Week 20--	Ex 25-28	2 Sam 15-19	Psa 57-59	Job 39-40	Jer 37-41	Luke 3-4	2 Cor 9-10
Week 21--	Ex 29-32	2 Sam 20-24	Psa 60-62	Job 41-42	Jer 42-46	Luke 5-6	2 Cor 11-13
Week 22--	Ex 33-36	1 Ki 1-4	Psa 63-65	Prov 1	Jer 47-52	Luke 7-8	Gal 1-3
Week 23--	Ex 37-40	1 Ki 5-9	Psa 66-68	Prov 2-3	Lamentatio	Luke 9-10	Gal 4-6
Week 24--	Lev 1-3	1 Ki 10-13	Psa 69-71	Prov 4	Ezek 1-6	Luke 11-12	Eph 1-3
Week 25--	Lev 4-6	1 Ki 14-18	Psa 72-74	Prov 5-6	Ezek 7-12	Luke 13-14	Eph 4-6
Week 26--	Lev 7-9	1 Ki 19-22	Psa 75-77	Prov 7	Ezek 13-18	Luke 15-16	Phil 1-2
Week 27--	Lev 10-12	2 Ki 1-5	Psa 78-80	Prov 8-9	Ezek 19-24	Luke 17-18	Phil 3-4
Week 28--	Lev 13-15	2 Ki 6-10	Psa 81-83	Prov 10	Ezek 25-30	Luke 19-20	Col 1-2
Week 29--	Lev 16-18	2 Ki 11-15	Psa 84-86	Prov 11-12	Ezek 31-36	Luke 21-22	Col 3-4
Week 30--	Lev 19-21	2 Ki 16-20	Psa 87-89	Prov 13	Ezek 37-42	Luke 23-24	1 Thes 1-3
Week 31--	Lev 22-24	2 Ki 21-25	Psa 90-92	Prov 14-15	Ezek 43-48	John 1-2	1 Thes 4-5
Week 32--	Lev 25-27	1 Chr 1-4	Psa 93-95	Prov 16	Dan 1-6	John 3-4	2 Thes
Week 33--	Num 1-3	1 Chr 5-9	Psa 96-98	Prov 17-18	Dan 7-12	John 5-6	1 Tim 1-3
Week 34--	Num 4-6	1 Chr 10-14	Psa 99-101	Prov 19	Hosea 1-7	John 7-9	1 Tim 4-6
Week 35--	Num 7-9	1 Chr 15-19	Psa 102-104	Prov 20-21	Hosea 8-14	John 10-12	2 Tim 1-2
Week 36--	Num 10-12	1 Chr 20-24	Psa 105-107	Prov 22	Joel	John 13-15	2 Tim 3-4
Week 37--	Num 13-15	1 Chr 25-29	Psa 108-110	Prov 23-24	Amos 1-4	John 16-18	Titus
Week 38--	Num 16-18	2 Chr 1-5	Psa 111-113	Prov 25	Amos 5-9	John 19-21	Philemon
Week 39--	Num 19-21	2 Chr 6-10	Psa 114-116	Prov 26-27	Obadiah	Acts 1-2	Heb 1-4
Week 40--	Num 22-24	2 Chr 11-15	Psa 117-118	Prov 28	Jonah	Acts 3-4	Heb 5-7
Week 41--	Num 25-27	2 Chr 16-20	Psa 119	Prov 29-30	Micah	Acts 5-6	Heb 8-10
Week 42--	Num 28-30	2 Chr 21-24	Psa 120-121	Prov 31	Nahum	Acts 7-8	Heb 11-13
Week 43--	Num 31-33	2 Chr 25-28	Psa 122-124	Ecc 1-2	Habakkuk	Acts 9-10	James 1-3
Week 44--	Num 34-36	2 Chr 29-32	Psa 125-127	Ecc 3-4	Zephaniah	Acts 11-12	James 4-5
Week 45--	Deut 1-3	2 Chr 33-36	Psa 128-130	Ecc 5-6	Haggai	Acts 13-14	1 Peter 1-3
Week 46--	Deut 4-6	Ezra 1-5	Psa 131-133	Ecc 7-8	Zechariah	Acts 15-16	1 Peter 4-5
Week 47--	Deut 7-9	Ezra 6-10	Psa 134-136	Ecc 9-10	Zechariah	Acts 17-18	2 Peter
Week 48--	Deut 10-12	Neh 1-4	Psa 137-139	Ecc 11-12	Malachi	Acts 19-20	1 John 1-2
Week 49--	Deut 13-15	Neh 5-9	Psa 140-142	Song 1-2	Rev 1-6	Acts 21-22	1 John 3-4
Week 50--	Deut 16-18	Neh 10-13	Psa 143-145	Song 3-4	Rev 7-11	Acts 23-24	1 John 5
Week 51--	Deut 19-21	Esther 1-5	Psa 146-148	Song 5-6	Rev 12-17	Acts 25-26	2,3 John
Week 52--	Deut 22-34	Esther 6-10	Psa 149-150	Song 7-8	Rev 18-22	Acts 27-28	Jude

1. Overview of Bible Study Methods

Simply reading through the Bible. There are several options:

A. ***Through the Bible in a Year***

This is fast paced and you'll get overrun quickly if you miss a couple days.

The Bible must be viewed as a single book. The knowledge found in each book is intimately integrated with the truths found in the other books. Having a strong overall knowledge of the Bible gives one the ability to study a single book more in-depth with accuracy and correct understanding.

B. ***A Chronological Reading of the Bible***

Harvest House puts out The Daily Bible, In Chronological Order 365 Daily Readings. This would be an excellent tool to combine a chronological approach along with a one year plan or read it at any pace you wish.

C. ***30 Days to Understanding the Bible*** by Max Anders

A great tool to give us a quick, broad, and helpful understanding of the Bible as whole.

Thoughtfully reading means that we slow down and make sure we have a basic understanding of the meaning of the text. There are several ways to proceed:

D. **Color-Coding**

Read through the Bible with your colored pens and underline, bracket, and take notes as you go. A single column Bible with large margins (with thick pages) is usually the easiest to use. You can read books in any order you like. Nothing below is inspired, figure out what works best for you and change anything that helps you learn and grow. I have note cards printed out with the below information in my Bible as a bookmark.

Color-Coding Your OLD TESTAMENT

NOTES IN BLUE	Comments • Teaching / Counseling Notes • Application (Herm color)
BLUE CIRCLE	Around the verse numbers you want to memorize
UNDERLINE IN GREEN	What I learn about God
BRACKETS IN GREEN	Covenants • Covenant blessings
UNDERLINE IN PURPLE	Context • Historical Markers • People (Exeg color)
NOTES IN PURPLE	Outline • Structure • Historical Flow
UNDERLINE IN RED	Doctrine (Bible, salvation, angels, Christology...)
UNDERLINE IN BLACK	Sin • Idolatry • Wickedness
PENCIL	Questions about the text

Psalm 56

For the choir director; according to Jonath elem rehokim. A Mikhta.
when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

Foes Fight against me

I will Trust you + praise you

They seek my destruction

He knows every tear + heartache

God knows me + is for me

I will Trust you + praise you

God fights for me or Delivers

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man has trampled upon me;
Fighting all day long he oppresses me.
- 2 My foes have trampled upon me all day long,
For they are many who fight proudly against me.
- 3 When I am afraid,
I will put my trust in You. + trust + praise
- 4 In God, whose word I praise,
In God I have put my trust;
I shall not be afraid.
What can mere man do to me? 1a
- 5 All day long they "distort my words;
All their thoughts are against me for evil.
- 6 They attack, they lurk,
They watch my steps,
As they have waited to take my life.
- 7 Because of wickedness, cast them forth,
In anger put down the peoples, O God! - Prayer for God's response
- 8 You have taken account of my wanderings;
Put my tears in Your bottle.
Are they not in Your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call;
This I know, that God is for me.
- 10 In God, whose word I praise,
In the LORD, whose word I praise, + trust + praise
- 11 In God I have put my ^dtrust, I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me? 2.
- 12 Your vows are binding upon me, O God;
I will render thank offerings to You.
- 13 For You have delivered my soul from death,
Indeed my feet from stumbling,
So that I may walk before God *
In the light of the living.

Color-Coding Your NEW TESTAMENT

NOTES IN BLUE	Comments • Teaching / Counseling Notes • Application (Herm color)
BLUE CIRCLE	Around the verse numbers you want to memorize
UNDERLINE IN GREEN	What I learn about God
BRACKETS IN GREEN	God's promises
UNDERLINE IN PURPLE	Context • Historical Markers • People (Exeg color)
NOTES IN PURPLE	Outline • Structure • Historical Flow
UNDERLINE IN RED	Doctrine (Bible, Christ, sin, end times...)
NOTES IN RED	Notes on doctrines in the margins
UNDERLINE IN BLACK	Things we learn about the Church and its ministry
NOTES IN BLACK	Ministry (evangelism, discipleship, service...)
PENCIL	Questions about the text

The Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Thankfulness for Spiritual Attainments

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
- 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae:
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
- 3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (praying always for you)
- 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;
- 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel
- 6 which has come to you, just as (in all the world) also (it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing) even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;
- 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,
- 8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.
- 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Faith in Christ
Love for Saints
B/c Hope in Heaven
↓↑
Gospel
• Bearing Fruit
• Increasing
↓
Presently in you! - the
ongoing work of the Gospel
Prayer
↓
Act

E. Single Page Overviews

Take one piece of paper and divide it into 4-6 sections (I'll often use a legal pad). Label each section. Don't fill up more than the portion of paper given to each subject. This method will provide you with a brief overview of each NT book and will also give you a resource to refer to in order to quickly refresh your memory.

<u>GOSPEL</u>		<u>EPISTLE</u>	
<u>Brief Outline</u>	<u>Descriptions of Jesus</u>	<u>Brief Outline</u>	<u>Context (author & historic context)</u>
<u>Key Verses</u>	<u>Parables</u>	<u>Key Verses</u>	<u>Doctrines</u>
	<u>Miracles</u>	<u>Overall Theme</u>	

Examples:

- With all of these examples it may be helpful to add a second page to write down application points.
- These one page summaries will be incredibly helpful for you in the future. They can be used as a resource for teaching, reminders, or deeper study.
- A simple way to go deeper would be to complete a summary page for each chapter of a book after the book summary is finished.

Old Testament Examples: These divisions are only suggestions. Do what works for you! Blank templates in the back.

GENESIS	
Brief Outline	Main Characters
Key Verses	Descriptions of God
Overall Theme	

PSALM	
Brief Outline	Descriptions of God
Descriptions of Man	Key Verses
	Overall Theme

PROVERBS	
General Themes	Personally Impactful Verses
Attributes of God	

PROPHETIC BOOK	
Brief Outline	Context
Blessings & Judgment	Descriptions of God
Overall Theme	

Strong Suggestion: Always walk away with a **nugget** to hold on to, process, or memorize to help you meditate on God throughout the day and be reminded of His presence, character, and love.

Recommended Resources



- » *Any good study Bible*
- » *A Bible dictionary, such as **The New Unger's Bible Dictionary**. Merrill F. Unger*
- » **How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth**. Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart
- » **Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts, 3rd ed.** Thomas Nelson
- » *A Bible handbook, such as **The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible**. Gordon D. Fee or **Holman Illustrated Bible Handbook**. B&H Editorial Staff*

Psalm 89

Overall Theme Your Love is Steadfast / How long will your wrath burn like fire?

Brief Outline of the Psalm

- 1-4 God's love is steadfast & faithful to David
- 5-18 God is Awesome/Mighty/Incomparable.
- 19-37 Promised Faithfulness to David
- 38-48 How long will your wrath burn?
- 49-52 Where is your faithfulness to David?

Type of Psalm Royal Psalm

Context (Author & Situation):

- Highlights covenant to David 3, 4, 19, 20-26
- 38 - in a time of judgment & wrath
- 39-45 - defeat, war, & plunder
- 49 - Looking for God's steadfast love.

How can I apply what I have learned?

(My prayer life, view of God, worship, faith...)

- 46 - trying to understand God's faithfulness to his covenant and his judgment of sin both working together. How do we understand this from a human pt of view.
- Has promised faithfulness, yet the walls have fallen. Steadfast love yet plundering.
 - Final Destination vs present situation
 - Future holiness vs present sinfulness
 - Present Covenant, vs Personal ongoing sin.
 - Eternal Forgiveness vs present judgment.

Descriptions of God:

- 1 - God's Steadfast Love
- 2 & 6 - Heavens establish faithfulness & declare praise
- 6 - Incomparable
- 7 - Greatly to be Feared / awesome above all
- 8 - God of hosts / mighty / faithful
- 10 - Scatter enemies
- 11 - heavens & earth are yours
- 12 - Righteous & Just → Foundations of your throne
- 33 - God will never break His coven. promises
- 34 - will not alter a word from my lips.

Key Verses:

- 46 - Trying to understand pain in the lives of God's people.
- 49 - A Great God w Great Promises, yet a life of pain (b/c of sin).

Other Descriptions: (The righteous, wicked, the Word, faith, creation...)

- 27-29, 36 - A picture of God's Covenant to David being fulfilled in Christ.
- the firstborn + Col 1:15
- establish covenant w/ offspring forever

2. Advanced Overview of the Bible Study Methods

A. *A Book a Month Club*

Pick a book of the Bible each month and analyze it systematically:

WEEK 1

Overview, let it wash over you

- Read it several times.
- Figure out the context (author, recipients, historical situation)
- Jot down the main points or events covered in a particular chapter or group of chapters.
- Note what the text teaches about God, Jesus or the Spirit.
- Note References to time, repetitions, lists, contrasts, etc....
- It might be very helpful to write in your Bible

WEEK 2

Synthesize a list and organize what you are learning

- Create a book chart (similar to one page overview)
- Include headings for Themes & Outline, Info on the Author, Chronological Placement, Setting, Purpose, Major Characters, Key Verses, Major Doctrines, and Recipients

WEEKS 3 & 4

Respond, time to apply what you are learning

- Continue to read through the book
- Spend a lot of time in reflection
- In a notebook, journal, or on a computer write down personal application from the book
- Possibly do a more in-depth study on a particular paragraph, chapter, or subject of interest.
- Do a final summary of the purpose and flow of the book. This you should be able to verbally communicate to someone else if they ask you what the book is about.

Thoughts...

- *In 5 years, you will have studied every book in the Bible.*
- *It is always helpful to take on this method with one or more friends.*
- *Varying back and forth through the different genres of books may keep this study fresh.*

B. Surveys

Pick up a good OT & NT survey and work through them as you read through each book of the Bible. Place relevant notes into your text to help you better understand the setting, context, and meaning of the text.

- OT as the author teaches how each prophetic and poetic book fits into the history of Israel found in the first 14 books of the OT.
- New Testament surveys will also help readers understand how the epistles fit into the historical context of Acts.

Recommended Surveys



- » **An Introduction to the Old Testament.** *Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman, III*
- » **An Introduction to the New Testament.** *D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris*
- » **A Survey of the Old Testament.** *Andrew Hill and John Walton*
- » **A Survey of the New Testament.** *Stan Gundry*

C. Use your color-coded Bible

If you color-coded your Bible, you can:

- Use it to study all of your verses in green, particular doctrines in red, or whatever color or topic.
- Put them in a notebook or on a computer and write out your observations from each verse.
- Sum up your conclusions on a particular doctrine or topic.
- Create studies that will increase your understanding and ability to communicate what you have learned to others.

D. Add a Systematic Theology

Systematic Theology – The organization of biblical subjects into categories.

Read while compiling verses on particular doctrines.
Quality Systematics:

- Theology is for everyone, it is the study of God Himself and His redemptive plan for man.

- It gives you a mental grid which will help protect you from false teaching.
- Disorganized theology can lead to misinterpretation, systematic theology leads to correct understanding.

Recommended Systematics



- » *Dispensational: Ryrie; Theissen*
- » *Baptist: Erickson; Allison* **50 Core Doctrines**
- » *Semi-Reformed: Hodge; Grudem*
- » *Standard Reformed: Reymond; Berkof*
- » *Historic Theology: Olson; Allison*

3. In-Depth Bible Study Methods

Ideas for the New Testament

A. The Gospels – An Intimate Look at Jesus

- A great resource for this study is a book called ***The Harmony of the Gospels***, by Thomas and Gundry. It has columns for each of the Gospels, but they are presented in chronological order with parallel passages located beside each other in the columns.
- Read through all of the Gospels (separately or in harmony). Color-code as you go.
- It would also be very helpful to find a book which will give you a brief & accurate picture of the historical setting of the Gospels. (Bible Handbook, Survey, or History)
- Outline the order of the events
- Highlight everything that you learn about Jesus. Ex: how He treats people, how He speaks to people, how He feels, His relationship with the Father, His responses in every situation, etc...
- Mark or record every parable & miracle
- Make separate sheets for each of the main characters, (Disciples, John the Baptist, the Pharisees, etc...) and write down all that you learn about each of them.
- Even More In-Depth
 1. Go back through all of the highlighted passages compile your thoughts and observations about Jesus. Create a Bible study.

2. Study each parable until you understand the purpose and main point of each.
3. Do a more thorough study of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount.
4. Pick up a commentary or two to help you think through any passages that were confusing or difficult to understand.
5. Write a couple talks on the life of Jesus.
6. Look at the role of the Holy Spirit throughout the Gospels
7. Mark where the Gospels record stories or teachings differently. Try to figure out the emphasis of each author in their use of the material.

B. Acts

- The outline for the book of Acts is given in Acts 1:8. Use this guide to create a more detailed outline of the spread of the Gospel.
- Mark the points in Acts when other books of the Bible might have been written. This will take some time with a Study Bible or Bible handbook.
- Keep track of all the main characters; Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Philip, etc. Watch what kind of hardships they go through and how they respond to God, people, and ministry.
- Record how the Holy Spirit works throughout this book
- Read this as an historical book, not an epistle teaching doctrine in how we should live.
- Take notes on what you learn about God. How does He cause His Gospel to go forth? When and how does He use man and when does He work on His own?
- Spend time thinking through possible application. Is my view of God and His power different than the disciples? How do I view suffering? Evangelism? Etc...
- Possibly memorize the outline you made.

Recommended Books

- » **New Testament History.** *F. F. Bruce*
- » **The NIV Harmony of the Gospels.** *Robert Thomas and Stanley Gundry* or **Synopsis of the Four Gospels.** *Kurt Aland*
- » **The Life of Christ in Stereo: The Four Gospels Combined as One.** *(Cheney)*



C. Epistles (Romans through Jude) Thematic Divisions and Memorization

- Figure out the context of the book (Author, Recipients, Date, Occasion & Purpose) and record what you learn.
- Break down each book into an outline with thematic divisions.
- Consider memorizing your major themes. Maybe even memorize the minor themes!
- *Nelson's Bible Charts and Maps* is extremely helpful, but try to figure out the themes for yourself before turning to your resources.

Recommended Bible Commentaries



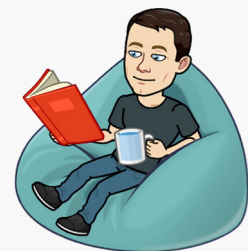
Might be time to start investing into some solid commentaries!

Easily readable:

- » *Tyndale Old Testament and New Testament Commentaries*
- » *The Bible Speaks Today (BST) Series*
- » *The New American Commentary Series (NAC)*
- » *New International Biblical Commentary (NIBC)*
- » *John MacArthur or John Stott Commentary Series*

More in-depth reads (some interaction with original languages):

- » *The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)*
- » *The New International Commentary on the New/Old Testament (NICN/OT)*
- » *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*
- » *Word Biblical Commentary (WBC)*
- » *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (ECNT)*
- » *Complete Commentary Set (Expositors Bible Commentary) or (Walvord & Zuck)*



Case Study: Galatians

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THEMATIC DIVISION OF A LETTER

Author Paul, the one who brought the Gospel to the churches in Galatia

Recipients Churches in the region of Galatia being attacked by Judiazers

Date Two theories: Northern Galatia theory 53-57 AD
Southern Galatia theory 51-53 AD

Occasion and Purpose Paul got word that the Galatians were beginning to follow the way of the Judaizers and adding to the Gospel Paul had preached. Paul writes to them again to establish apostolic authority as well as to re-teach the doctrine of **justification by faith alone**.

Outline

- 1:1-5 Greeting
- 1:6-9 Accusation of False Teachers
- 1:10-2:21 Defense of Paul's Authority
 - 1:10-12 The Gospel was received by a revelation from Christ
 - 1:13-17 Testimony of Paul's conversion
 - 1:18-19 Paul goes to Jerusalem to see Peter
 - 1:20-24 Paul visits other churches who praise God because of him
 - 2:1-10 Paul accepted as minister to the Gentiles by the Apostles
 - 2:11-21 Paul opposes Peter in Antioch
 - 3-4 Defense of Justification by Faith
 - 3:1-5 The Galatians experienced the Gospel
 - 3:6-9 Example of Abraham's Faith
 - 3:10-14 Cursed under the Law / Redemption through Christ
 - 3:15-25 The Law and the Promise of Christ
 - 3:26-4:7 We are Sons of God and heirs to the throne
 - 4:8-20 Paul is concerned that the Galatians may follow the Judiazers
 - 5-6 Defense of the Christian Life
 - 5:1-15 Freedom in Christ, not through Circumcision
 - 5:16-26 Life by the Spirit
 - 6:1-10 Doing Good to all
 - 6:11-18 A New Creation is essential, not Circumcision

In-Depth Bible Study Methods

Ideas for the New Testament

Mapping – The more senses we use in learning, the deeper it will go into our memory. Looking at a chart is not nearly as memorable as researching and making a chart. Mapping is a way of charting what we learn about particular topics of study. It may help to read in chronological order, but it is not necessary. Here are several examples.

A. Historic Mapping

- Think of a method in which you can create a timeline of the nation of Israel throughout the OT.
- Use a large poster board or sheet of banner paper. For some it may be easier to do this on a computer or in a notebook.
- On this timeline record events (flood, Tower of Babel, etc.), individuals (Adam, Noah, Abram), and miracles (plagues, Red Sea, etc.) which shaped the nation of Israel.
- Other things which you can include: prophecies, judgments, blessings, covenants, etc.

B. Character Mapping

Create a time-line for each of the major individuals in the OT through asking these questions:

- What is the historical background and Biblical context of this person's life and ministry?
- What do we know of this person's family background?
- Did this person have any training for ministry in his/her youth: If so, what?
- What were some of this person's major accomplishments?
- Was there a great crisis in his/her life? How did the person handle it?
- What was this person's relationship with God like? Where did they struggle with sin?
- What was his/her relationship with others like?
- Did this person have a spouse, children, or grandchildren? If so, what were they like?

Mark the answers which are oriented in time on your map. For answers which require more space to describe in detail (like, “How did this person handle a particular crisis?”), record on the back of the time-line or in another place.

Application Questions to Do With Character Mapping



- » *Are there any character traits in this person's life that I need to develop in my life? Are there character traits from this individual that I do not want to see in my life?*
- » *Are there any areas of this person's walk with God that I would like to see God develop in my life?*
- » *Are there any changes in my attitudes or actions that I would like to see God make in light of this study?*
- » *Was there a lesson that this person learned during his/her life that is important for me to learn? What can I learn from their failures (sin, relationships, and choices)?*
- » *In what ways will my ministry to others be different as a result of my study of this person's life?*

Always Remember: God is the hero of the OT!

C. Revelation Mapping (God's progressive revealing of His nature)

- God reveals Himself more fully over time. This is true also throughout the OT. He slowly uses different Names, Miracles, Laws, and Descriptions of Himself (through prophets, kings, and psalmists) to reveal His true nature to His people.
- Create a Map of God's self-revelation to His people is mapped out over time.
- This will be much easier to do with the historic books (Gen.-Neh.) than with the other OT books. It may be advisable to simply record what you learn about God in each non-historic book in a notebook or Word doc. If you can sum up the main attributes He teaches us about Himself in each Prophetic & Poetic book these would fit well on your timeline.

Recommended Resources



- » **The Names of God** (*Jukes*)
- » **The Knowledge of the Holy** (*Tozer*)
- » **Attributes of God** (*Pink*)
- » **No One Like Him** (*Feinberg*)

SUMMARY

You can do all these maps at once while you read through the OT, or you can do only one.

This is a fun activity to do together with a Bible Study.

If you can, make the map in such a way that it can be hung up somewhere where you will see it often, this will give you the ability to frequently think about what you have learned.

4. Inductive Bible Study Methods

This is our most in-depth study method. Here we take the time to understand the meaning of words, phrases, sentences, and sections and how they relate. All questions need to be considered and answered. The suggested commentaries to the left now become a must, as we recognize we can use help to dig deep. Everything we learned about exegesis, hermeneutics, and genre must be used here. Passages that are preached and taught by pastors are typically studied at this level to make sure they are being taught correctly and with consistency.

SEMI-INDUCTIVE APPROACH TO A PASSAGE

Selected Passage _____

General Observations

(Historical Context, Author, Recipients, Occasion)

Who is the writer of this text?

What is the occasion and situation of this book of the Bible?
What are the problems that the recipients of this book are facing?

Why are they facing these problems?

Who are all the people involved in this passage?

Does this passage refer to a specific aspect of the problem? If so how?

Does the setting, cultural climate, or location give us any additional insight into the plain meaning of the text?

What is the main theme or purpose of this passage?

What ideas are expressed? What are the results?

What things are accomplished? How well? By what method?

How does it add to the purpose of the book? Textually what goes before and after this passage?

Textual Observations (Literary Context)
What are the commands?

What are the promises or cause/effect relationships?

What are the repeated words and ideas? Why are they repeated? How are they related?

What are the 'key words' that need to be defined?

Are there any exegetically difficult verses or phrases? Any thoughts on how these can be resolved or explained?

Is there anything else in the text that should be further studied?

Is there anything that still just does not make sense?

Are there any cross-references that bring more understanding to this section?

Do you have any input from commentaries that should be included?

Application

How does this change or add to my view or understanding of God? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?

How does this change or add to my view or understanding of myself – my flesh, my position in Christ, my relationship to God, or my relationship with others?

How does this shape my understanding of the Body of Christ?

The world always is trying to warp God's truth through changing it, adding to it, or removing from it. What are some of the ways the world warps the truth(s) taught in this text?

How has this warping of the truth affected the Body? The ministry? Me?

Try to think of someone who lives out this truth. What do they look like when they interact with God and others? What can I change to act more like Christ in light of this verse or passage?


How do I respond emotionally to this passage? Why?

HOW TO DO AN INDUCTIVE STUDY OF A BOOK OF THE BIBLE

1. Pray! Pray! Pray!
2. Start with a smaller book. Get a notebook, binder, or organize docs on your computer.
3. Make sure you have the necessary tools with you (biblical survey, handbook, dictionary, commentaries...)

Context (Exegesis)

1. Study the historical setting & date it is written. Figure out the circumstances surrounding the book. Learn about the author and recipients. Record all of this information.
2. Read! Read! Read! Read the book 5-8 times with a pen in hand.
3. Create a brief outline of the book (perhaps memorize it).
4. Either find a Bible with lots of room to write or retype the book with triple spacing and without paragraph indents. You then have room to freely write all over it. (A binder to organize everything would be helpful)
5. Color-code
 - Color-code all doctrine. I usually write each particular doctrine in the margin and put a red box around it to make it easy to find and reference.
 - Mark all contextual markers (author info, recipient info, time markers, info about occasion and purpose, info about relationships...)
 - Go through and in one color ask every question you can think of.
 - In another color write down comments and thoughts concerning the content of the book.
6. Determine and write out the key words and major people in the book.
 - Make symbols for each key word and person.
 - Put the symbols in the text over the words.

Example: 
7. Read through the book again and write out everything (you should be able to simply reference your colors) the book says about the author and his recipients on a separate page. This includes their relationships. (Record these in a list form.)
8. Keep asking Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? about everything.
9. Read through again and mark every prayer given &

promise given, and record all of the instructions given chapter by chapter.

10. Complete a detailed outline of the book.

Interpretation (Hermeneutics)

1. Begin studying the book verse by verse and asking key questions using your knowledge of the context and meaning of the text.
2. Ask, “What did this mean to them?” and “What should this mean to me/us now?”
3. Ask, “What principles are at play in this verse? How can they apply into our setting? Our church? My life?”
4. What part of the depraved nature of man is being addressed? How has it manifesting itself? What does the author tell the recipient to do?
 - We have the same depraved nature! How does it manifest itself today? In you?
 - How are the author’s words to them applicable to us?
5. Are there any shared particulars between the recipient’s situation and ours? Are they commended or corrected? What is the author then saying to us?

Check Yourself (James 3:1)

1. Find a commentary and make sure you are coming to the same conclusions and appropriate applications of the text. Something completely original may actually be very dangerous.
2. Make corrections and try to figure out what you misunderstood and how you came to the wrong conclusions. We all do it! The question is, will we learn and improve in our ability to study?

Teach

1. Make up studies from all the main points in your detailed outline.
2. Possible write a talk that will benefit and bless others.
3. Record ways that your life has changed from studying this book and share them with others.

Glossary

Authority – “The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God” (Grudem, 73). (God-breathed/plenary inspiration)

Convictions – Clear Biblical teaching. Especially on matters of the Gospel, the Trinity, the Deity of Christ and Salvation by grace through faith. These are issues for which we should be prepared to die!

Exegesis – Finding out what the text originally meant.

Gospels – The same story from different angles using a wide variety of genres (narrative, parable, hyperbole, similes, metaphors, poetry, questions, irony, and even prophecy).

Hermeneutics – Applying the Bible’s meaning to current times and everyday life.

Inerrancy – Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

Law, The – Covenant Stipulations. Six types of Biblical Law:

Apodictic Law – Generalized, direct commands (do or do not). They set a standard by example, paradigmatic in nature (Lev. 19:9-14).

Casuistic Law – Specific commands in particular (case-by-case) situations (Deut. 15:12-17). Over 600

in the OT. They have very limited, direct applicability, but we do learn of God’s love for the poor, fairness, and proper treatment of employees.

Food Law – to protect Certain foods are deemed clean and unclean for the nation of Israel. This is a temporary set of standard for a particular point in history for a particular people.

“Shedding of Blood” Law – Sin deserves punishment

Unusual Prohibitory Laws – specific laws to keep Israel from the cultic practices of the Canaanites

Law Tied to Blessing – ex. tithes

Opinions – Beliefs, desires, or even wishes that may not be clearly taught in Scripture or that may legitimately differ for various believers.

Parables – A story with a primary audience and message in mind. Designed to be understood using examples from the audience’s daily experience with a moral (or punch line) in mind.

Persuasions – “Persuasions should be subjects on which we have studied enough to develop a clear and informed view. Persuasions often don’t deal with the main themes of Scripture, yet generally should be confined to subjects about which the Bible speaks. We can feel free to argue for our persuasions, but we should respect and cooperate with those who disagree” (Scholes, 19). These are not issues that are essential for salvation, and they do not need to divide us.

Glossary

Poetry – As in many types of Psalms. Words spoken to God (not us) yet still from God. Functions as: a guide in worship, a way to learn how to relate honestly and openly to God, and reflections and meditations about God

Prophets – Forth-telling and foretelling. Covenant enforcers. They spoke from God to man (and nations) regarding blessings and curses, based on their keeping or forsaking of their covenant with God. They also spoke of a day yet to come. A great genre to use outside help!

Revelation – Apocalyptic literature. Though this is a rare form of literature today, there were dozens of well-known apocalypses recognized by Jews and Christians.

Sufficiency – “The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contains all the words of God that He intended His people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the Words of God we need for salvation, for trusting Him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly” (Grudem, 127) (2 Tim. 3:17).

Systematic Theology – The organization of biblical subjects into categories.

Wisdom – Proverbs function as practical advice, not promises.

*I hope you've enjoyed the first of the Core Classes!
Bye, for now!*





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