

Bible Study Methods Part 1

Lesson 5

All that has been said and done, in this course, has been for the purpose of preparing you for these next 2 lessons. To get the most out of your Bible Study, a basic understanding of what you are reading is necessary. Guidelines for correctly interpreting are also crucial if one is going to correctly handle the Word of Truth. The information on Bible Study aids will come in handy when you come across certain sections in your study and you would like to gain a more complete understanding.

There will be 9 different methods of Bible Study, which we will look at. They all accomplish the same purpose, to educate you in God's Word, just through different processes. Such variety can help prevent you from becoming bored, or just going through the motions. Take the time to try the different methods (some will be more time consuming than others) and find out which one helps you the most. Then you can use it on a regular basis and the others occasionally for a change of pace.

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

This simply means, that you will learn all that you can about a particular person in the Bible. You will probably use: Concordance, Bible Dictionary and/or a Bible Encyclopedia. Once you have learned about the person; ask yourself: "What good things in their life can I imitate or learn from?", "What mistakes did they make, that I can avoid?" and "How did God view them and why?". These, and other questions like them, will leave you with some guidelines for YOUR life.

BOOK STUDY

By pursuing a book study, you become acquainted with the entire book and not just a portion. Such an overview can give additional insight, such as: "Why such a passage was included" or "How it fits in with other Bible teaching." Such a study will leave you with a sense of accomplishment.

To do a book study, you will want to learn all that you can about the author, the readers and the circumstances. Then keep these things in mind as you read through the book. Learn the importance of that particular book, what it teaches, promises or command that are given, examples to learn from., etc.

Once again, at the conclusion of your study, you will want to apply what you have learned, to your life. Find particular areas of your life to grow in, be more appreciative of all that God has done, understand more completely how God feels and what He thinks, etc. By personalizing, you derive greater benefit than by simply reading.

CHARTS

By making charts, during the course of your study, you will find that things are easier to follow. Family Trees of the Biblical Genealogies make the reading much more interesting and easier to follow. Later, you can compare your charts with other genealogies for the same Bible people and find additions or deletions, which prove to be interesting.

Charts of the Kings and which prophets prophesied, will be helpful when you study the books of prophecy and history. When reading a historical account, much insight can be gained when you realize what the main characters were hearing from God's prophets.

Lists of Disciples, Parables, Judges, Early Churches and what we know about them, Prophecies and fulfillments, etc. provide understanding which is often lost, due to lack of effort.

Such charts, will be helpful most, when they are later used with other Bible Study methods.

MEMORIZE

Memorizing Scripture can be time consuming, but extremely beneficial. There are times throughout the course of the day, when we need encouragement, challenge, or correction. Going to the Bible may be impractical. If we have memorized helpful passages in advance, we can go through them in our minds and gain value from the Scriptures, even when we can't read them.

The best place to start, is in carefully choosing passages which you feel will be helpful. Those which you feel you will use most often are the ones to learn first. Begin with learning the message of the verse. Then you can work on the wording. **REMEMBER: LEARN THE BIBLE REFERENCE!** There will be times that you will want to go back and review, or show it to someone. If you do not know the passage, it is inconvenient and can prove to be embarrassing. Review and use the passages frequently, as they will then stay clearer in your mind and give you the strength and guidance you need.

OUTLINING

Outlining, along with the other methods, force you to concentrate and to analyze what you are reading. In this manner, the material that you read will be remembered for a longer period of time and you will be able to benefit from the additional learning which will take place.

Outlining is simply taking the main point of the passage, parable, chapter or book and the breaking down the rest of the material into smaller sections. By reading through your outline (composed of a word or brief phrase), you should find all of the passage summarized. Some passages do not lend themselves to outlining as well as others, so do not become discouraged. The point is: to learn what the passage is saying. So if you can't formulate an outline, but now know what the passage is about, don't worry: YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT YOU SET OUT TO DO!

STUDY GUIDE FOR LESSON 5

1. Of what benefit are Bible Study Aids?
2. What is the purpose of different Bible Study Methods?
3. Of what advantage is it, to be aware of different methods?
4. What does one study about in a Biographical Study?
5. What is the advantage of a book Study compared to a specific PASSAGE in a book?
6. What are some of the things you want to learn about in a Book Study?
7. How can charts be helpful?
8. Name areas where charts would be beneficial?
9. Of what benefit is memorizing Scripture?
10. Name some tips, that make memorizing easier.
11. What is Outlining?
12. What is the point of the methods?
13. What should you remember if you can't formulate an Outline?
14. List some people that would make good Biographical Studies. Explain.
15. What would be some easy Bible Books for a Book Study?
16. List some charts that would be helpful for Bible Study. (Include your own ideas)
17. What would be good verse or passages to memorize? (List topics as well as specific verse)
18. Why would it be helpful to save your outlines?
19. List the Books in each division of the Old Testament.
20. List the Books in each division of the New Testament.