

Bible Study Methods—Part 2

Lesson 6

You have recently taken a look at 5 Bible Study Methods. You will now begin to look at 4 more. These are not a complete listing of Bible Study Methods, but they should be complete enough for our purposes.

The important thing to remember is: **THE PURPOSE IS TO LEARN GOD'S WORD** and then to **APPLY IT!** With this in mind, one will not get discouraged if they have problems or does not enjoy a particular method; for the methods are not what is important, but the learning. If you miss a day or get behind schedule, don't worry about what is behind or has happened, but get back on track and in the habit of learning and living God's Word.

OVERVIEW

The Overview Method is for the purpose of trying to learn as much about the "Major Events" as possible. This is best accomplished by reading all of the Bible through. You will read as much as possible per sitting, trying to keep track of all the Major Events going on: don't worry about the details, that's not the purpose. When you come to a list of names, numbers, laws, etc., that may get tedious, don't worry about it. Keep going and realize that the quicker you get to those lists, the sooner they'll be over and you will be on your way.

You will find books such as: Bible Handbooks, Bible Dictionaries and Bible Atlas' helpful. When you take the time to learn what the book and chapters are about, it is easier to follow the train of thought of the writer. Looking up unfamiliar words and places will help you to learn them material so that it will stick, and will make your reading more meaningful.

PASSAGE

When you pick out a passage or a chapter to read, your purpose is to learn all that you can about the content of that section. You should pay more attention to details than you would in an overview reading. If you have done a book study from where the passage is found, read it beforehand and it will help you to understand how this passage fits in and its importance.

After studying a passage, you should be able to tell what happened or what is being taught, plus the finer points. This type of study will allow you to develop depth in your Bible knowledge and should be the eventual goal of each Bible Student.

A good background in the Bible is truly important to make sure that you do not err in your understanding! If you take 1 passage, it may not be thorough or lead to confusion because it is not taken in context. For example, If you read the story of Noah, and that was all that you read, you might assume that God is cruel and unfair. When you realize that God sent His Son and doesn't want anyone to perish, you get a clearer idea of God.

TOPICAL

A Topical Study is helpful because your goal is to see ALL that God has taught about a particular subject. By doing this, you will avoid taking passages out of context and will see how everything falls into place.

You begin by choosing your topic. By going to a concordance or Topical Bible, you will be able to find several passages on that subject. Read all of the passages and then go back over them a second time. Then you can begin to draw conclusions as to what God has taught.

WORD STUDY

Word Studies are helpful for they give you insight on the meaning of a word. What the word meant in the days of the writers, or in the day of the translators, might be different than how we use that word today. A Word Study will reveal that.

An Exhaustive Concordance will list all the times that a certain word is translate as the word you're studying. By matching the numbers and looking at those passages, you will find the different ways that, that word is used.

Another helpful book, would be an Expository Dictionary. This book has already done the work for you and gives you the results of the study. It can save you quite a bit of time AND give you helpful information besides.

SUGGESTED APPROACHES WOULD BE:

BEGINNERS:

- Memorize
- Overview
- Outline

(as you become more familiar with the Bible, move on to other types of studies)

MEDIUM:

- Biographical
- Book Study
- Charts
- Topical

These require more background. The background will help you to make wise decisions as to what you will study. At this level, one should feel free to go back at any time an use the methods at the beginner level, for they will continue to be beneficial.

HARD

- Passages
- Word Studies

These require enough familiarity with God's Word so that you do not jump to wrong conclusions.

MAKE THE TIME for Daily Bible Study, Prayer and Meditation. Then apply it to your life that very day and every day that follows. This is can be done by EVERY Christian and not just "Bible Scholars".

STUDY GUIDE FOR LESSON 6

1. What is the important thing to remember about Bible Study Methods?
2. What should one do if they miss a day of Bible Study or get away from their Schedule?
3. What does one try to learn with the Overview Method?
4. In the Overview Method, what will make it easier to follow the writer' train of thought?
5. What should you pay more attention to when studying a Passage compared to an Overview Study?
6. What would be helpful to read before you study a Passage, if you have already have one done.
7. What will a study of various Passages, allow you to develop?
8. What will help prevent you from erring, when Studying a passage?
9. Why is a Topical Study helpful?
10. What Bible Study Aids would be helpful in a Topical Study?
11. In a Topical Study, when should you begin to draw conclusions?
12. What will a Word Study give insight on?
13. What book has already done Word Studies and presents the conclusions?
14. What bible Study Methods would be good for a beginner?
15. What Bible Study Methods are considered of Medium difficulty?
16. What Bible Study Methods are considered hard?
17. What should we MAKE TIME for?
18. Who should study the Bible and apply it to their lives?
19. What has been the most beneficial things in this course for you, so far?