



BIBLE STUDY: Making it Personal

As you go through each lesson, look up the Bible verses and answer the questions in the blanks provided. When you are finished with this lesson you and your mentor will meet to discuss your answers and any questions you may have. This is not a pass/fail test, so answer honestly as you understand things. We want you to understand, not just to give the “right” answer.



Bible reading and study are a vital part of our communication with God! In *prayer*, we speak directly to God. Through *Bible reading*, God speaks directly to us.

In this study, you'll learn the value of Bible study and how to develop a plan to get the most out of it.

1. What assurance do I have that the *Bible* is the *Word of God*?
Read II Timothy 3:16.

2. How much of the Bible is *inspired*? Read II Timothy 3:16

Note: The Greek word translated into our English word “*inspired*” literally means “*God-breathed*.” To say that the Bible is inspired means that it is given directly by God through the men who wrote it. It is God’s words *breathed* through human instruments.

3. How did the Bible *not* come to us? Read II Peter 1:21a.

4. **Who** directed men in their writing of the *Scriptures*?
Read **II Peter 1:21b**.

5. **What title** is the Bible given in:

Hebrews 4:12 _____

II Timothy 2:15 _____

6. **How important** is the reading and studying of God's Word?

Job 23:12 _____

Matthew 4:4 _____

7. **How powerful** is God's Word?

Romans 1:16 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

8. **Who** will help us to understand God's Word? Read **John 16:13**

9. **What** will He do to help us? Read **John 16:13**

10. **What danger** does a Christian face who does not know God's Word? Read **Ephesians 4:14**

11. **What** is one of the reasons for reading and studying the Bible?
Read **I Peter 3:15**

12. What should be the natural *response* of the Christian to the Word of God? Read I Peter 2:2a

13. What should be the natural *result* of reading and studying the Word of God? Read I Peter 2:2b

14. What are we commanded to do as Christian in regard to Bible Study? Read II Peter 3:18

15. How often should we read and study the Bible? Read Acts 17:11

16. From the following verses of Scripture, name, (A) what we are to *do* (action) with the Word of God, and (B) the blessings that will result.

Read Joshua 1:8

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

Read Psalm 1:1-3

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

Read Psalm 119:11

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

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Read **Jeremiah 15:16**

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

Read **John 5:39**

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

Read **Romans 10:17**

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

Read **II Timothy 2:15**

Action: _____

Blessing: _____

17. What direct benefit and profit do we gain from a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures? Read II Timothy 3:16-17

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

18. Name two word pictures that describe the guidance that the bible will give to the Christian. Read Psalm 119:105

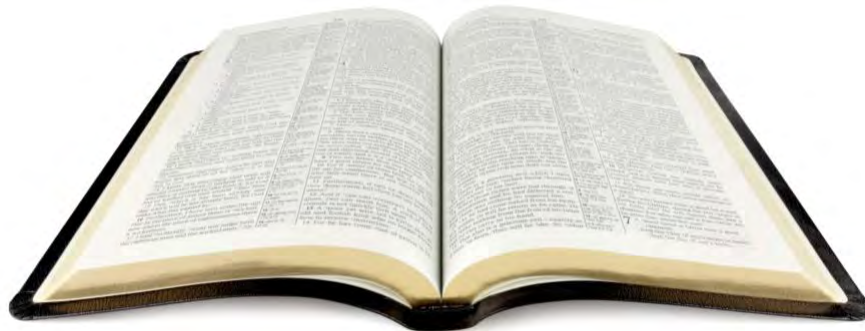
1) _____

2) _____

19. What relationship should the knowledge of God's Word have to obedience? Read James 1:22

In your Bible Reading and Study of the Bible, you should look for:

- A. Promises to Claim**
- B. Commands to Obey**
- C. Sins to Forsake**
- D. Examples to Follow**
- E. Warnings to Heed**



A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

There is much confusion in the “Christian World” over the many Bible translations and paraphrases available today. This course of study is based upon the **King James Version of the Bible**. Christians need to be warned that most of the new translations and paraphrases of the Bible are not true to the original texts of Scripture and that they should not be used.

The only English translations other than the **King James Version** that our church recommends are the **New King James Version**, the **New American Standard Bible**, and the **English Standard Version**.

MEMORIZE THESE VERSES for Lesson Five

(pick the translation that works best for you)

Title to verses: BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 119:11 (KJV) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:11 (NASB) Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8 (NASB) This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success..

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.



ACCOUNTABILITY PAGE

My Name: _____

My Mentor's Name: _____

Date I completed Lesson Five: _____

My Mentor's Signature: _____

A Pastor's Signature: _____



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Remember:

It's important to be at church whenever you are able, so you can continue to grow in the Lord!

SUNDAYS

9:45 am – Bible Study or Sunday School

10:50 am – Morning Worship Service

Lunch & Mingle

1:30 pm – Afternoon Church Service

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

DIGGING DEEPER

OPTIONAL: Extra information



Practical Principles of Bible Study

The Bible is the record of a sovereign God at work in a world of mere mortals. Through history, poetry, biography, and prophecy God's Word instructs and inspires, challenges, and corrects. It helps us see God and ourselves in the proper light and lets us in on the plan of the Almighty for humanity.

Still, many Christians approach the Bible without confidence, feeling that they cannot understand its great teachings on their own. If you have ever felt that way, perhaps the following proven principles will help you begin your own personal exploration of God's wonderful Word!

Preparation for Study

PERSPECTIVE

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (KJV) 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (NASB) 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- **2 Timothy 2:15** (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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- **2 Timothy 2:15** (NASB) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

PLANNING

Choose a short **time** each day or a longer period of time each week for study. Make an appointment with God and stick with it.

Select a **place** where you can keep your Bible, notebook, pencil, dictionary, and other study material together. That way you won't have to look for everything each time you study.

Develop a **plan** for what you are going to study. If you are new to Bible study, I suggest that you try this method on a small book of the bible. However, at some point in our growth, a Christian should take on the challenge of studying through the entire Bible. This method can be used to accomplish even a task that size.

PERSEVERENCE

Satan does not want you to study God's Word, and he will try to discourage and distract you. Even your own human nature will resist the discipline study takes, so you'll need to seek God's help in persevering from the start. Don't give Satan the victory and don't give in to sinful desires like laziness or lack of discipline. Even if you slack off for a while, keep going and be determined to start back. If you want to learn God's Word, it's going to take time and determination.

PRAYER

Pray each time before you start to study, asking the Holy Spirit to open your understanding and to help you apply what you learn to your life. Pray for guidance to find answers to difficult passages.

PRELIMINARY PLAN

Select a passage of Scripture that's manageable for the time you have – the method I'll describe works best with one chapter or a portion of a

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chapter at a time. I'd suggest beginning with some of the smaller books of the Bible.

General hints that often help in Bible study (they will help you recall your study when you return to the passage later):

- Underline the main people in the passage.
- Circle important places.
- Put a **?** by words or phrases you don't understand.
- Put a **!** by verses that are new and exciting to you.

Now it's time to get out your Bible and notebook to begin.

THE SEVEN P'S OF BIBLE STUDY

STEP 1—PEOPLE

- List each main character in the section you've selected – it could be a kind of person (husband, shepherd, king) or a person mentioned by name.
- Write a few lines about what the verses say about each character.
- Look up any cross-references on the person to gain more insight.
- Use a Bible dictionary and write down a few more facts about the person.

STEP 2—PLACES

- List the main places mentioned in the section.
- Write down a few lines about what the verses say about them.
- Look up any cross-references on each main place to gain more insight.
- Check the Bible dictionary for more information about the place.
- Locate the place on a Bible map or in a Bible atlas.
 - *Obviously, people and places aren't the focus of every passage you'll study. In those cases, just skip Steps 1 and 2 and move right into Step 3.*

STEP 3—PLOT

- In one or two sentences summarize what the section is all about. When you complete the study of an entire chapter and then an entire book of the Bible, it's valuable – and a meaningful challenge! – to summarize each larger section.

STEP 4—PLAY-BY-PLAY

- Divide the section you're studying into a general outline, listing the main ideas, and key sub-points, but keep it simple. After this, you may want to go back and refine your statement of the "plot."

STEP 5—PROBLEMS

- Did certain words leave you unsure of their meanings? To gain more insight, look up cross-references on various words (in your Bible's study notes or in references in the margins). Don't always assume you know what a word means; look up the word in a Bible dictionary or even in a regular English dictionary.
- Perhaps certain phrases or concepts in the text have you stumped. After you have done your best, consult a good Bible commentary to add to your understanding.

STEP 6—PURPOSE

- Ask yourself, "Why did God write this?" and record your answers. Finding the purpose of a passage will help you get God's perspective and it will prepare you for Step 7.

STEP 7—PERSONAL APPLICATION

Ask yourself these questions to make sure you have given the Holy Spirit the opportunity to use the Bible to make a difference in your life each day.

- "How does the passage apply to me?"
- "Are there attitudes that I need to change as a result of my new understanding?"

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- “Are there warnings that I need to heed?”
- “What principles did I find that I need to live by?”
- “On the basis of what I have learned today, what do I need to begin or to add to my life? What do I need to change or stop doing?”

God is eager to reveal Himself to His children and to direct you through His Word. Those who accept the invitation to study God’s Word will find themselves agreeing with the psalmist: *“How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”* - **Psalm 119:103** (NASB)

TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

Bibles

- A version you can read and understand
- A study Bible can also be a big help

Reference Works

- *Halley’s Bible Handbook*, *Ungers Bible Handbook*—concise handbooks with helpful background information and book summaries.
- *Ungers Bible Dictionary*—Insights into culture, history, people and places of the Bible.
- *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*—Look up the English word to find a discussion of the meaning of the word from the original Greek New Testament. Good for word studies; a time saver.
- *Zondervan Bible Dictionary*—A good basic dictionary.
- *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*—A valuable set of books, especially if you teach; comprehensive.

Concordances

- *Strong’s Exhaustive* and *Young’s Analytical Concordance*—Provide basic study tools through a complete listing of Old and New Testament words.

Geography and Customs

- *Manners and Customs of Bible Times*
- *Moody Bible Atlas*

Commentaries

- *Matthew Henry's Commentary of the Bible*
- *Tyndale Commentary Series*
- *Bible Exposition Commentaries* (aka the "Be" Series)—Warren Wiersbe's practical and insightful book by book commentaries of the Bible.

Many of these and more are available also through computer Bible software and phone apps:

- *Olive Tree Bible Phone App*
- *Logos Bible Software*

Where to Look in the Bible When You...

- Need Rest & Peace.....Matthew 11:25-30
- Worry.....Matthew 6:19-34
- Are Lonely or Fearful.....Psalm 23
- Need Peace of Mind.....John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-8
- Are Disappointed by People.....Psalm 27
- Grow Bitter or Critical.....I Corinthians 13
- Have Sinned.....Psalm 51; I John 1
- Are Discouraged.....Psalm 34
- Feel God Seems Far Away.....Psalm 139
- Think the World Seems Bigger Than God.....Psalm 90
- Are Sick.....Psalm 41
- Feel Sorrowful.....John 14; Psalm 46
- Are in Danger.....Psalm 91
- Want Courage.....Joshua 1:1-9
- Need Assurance.....Romans 8
- Forget Your Blessings.....Psalm 103
- Are Looking for Joy.....Colossians 3
- Leave Home to Travel.....Psalm 121
- Think of Investments.....Mark 10:17-31
- Need Guidelines for Living.....Matthew 5-7; Romans 12
- Need Rules of Conduct.....Exodus 20:1-17
- Need to Know God's Will for Your Life.....Proverbs 3:1-6

How We Got Our Bible

What determined which books belong in the Bible? How did we end up with 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament? These questions are answered in the discussion of the “canon of Scripture.” The word *canon* means “a measuring device” or “a standard.”

Out of the many religious writings that have been circulated, only 66 books were accepted as inspired by God. While some were recognized immediately as authentic, it took some time for others to be endorsed as Scripture. Throughout the process, however, the canon of Scripture was being determined by God, not by man.

The Old Testament.

The writings of Moses and the book of Joshua were immediately accepted as Scripture (Exodus 24:3; Joshua 24:26). The remaining books were tested by the following principles:

- 1) Authorship by a recognized prophet of God or leader in Israel.
- 2) Internal evidence of its inspiration and authority. The reader was able to recognize it as unique in communicating the revelation of God.
- 3) Writings containing obvious doctrinal and factual errors were eliminated. Books accepted by the community that received them were given priority consideration.
- 4) Further validation was given to certain Old Testament books when they were quoted from by Christ or the New Testament writers and referred to as Scripture.
 - The 12 books of the Apocrypha were not accepted as part of the biblical canon for these reasons:
 - They appeared in no Hebrew canon
 - None were quoted in the New Testament
 - They were not included in any early lists
 - Their content was too mythological

• **The New Testament.**

The acceptance of the New Testament books was based on the test of apostleship. They were received if they were written by an apostle, such as Peter or John, or by someone close to an apostle, such as Luke or Mark, who had apostolic authorization. We know that some false accounts of Christ’s life were being distributed (Luke 1:1-4), as well as some false epistles, (2 Thessalonians 2:2). Therefore, positive identification of the New Testament books was necessary.

The church fathers supported the inspiration of the New Testament canon and carefully identified and eliminated questionable works. The Councils of Hippo (AD 393) and Carthage (AD 397) accepted the 27 books that now appear in the New Testament.

Memorize the Order & Categories of the Books of the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 & 2 Samuel
- 1 & 2 Kings
- 1 & 2 Chronicles

Poetry

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

Minor Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

History

- Acts

Pauline Epistles

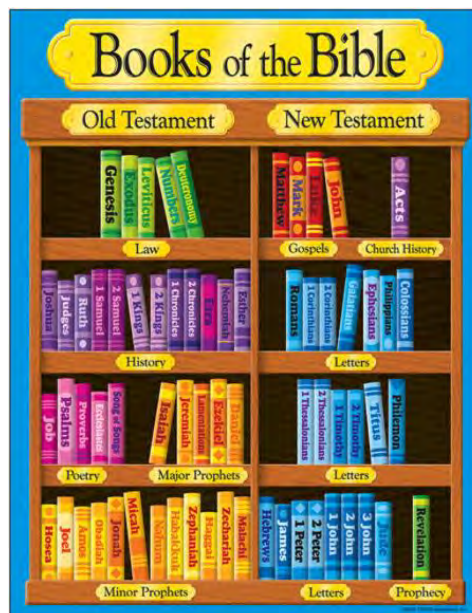
- Romans
- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- 1 & 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

General Epistles

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 & 2 Peter
- 1,2, & 3 John
- Jude

Prophecy

- Revelation





HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COURSE

Lesson Schedule

Lesson #1	What Happens When One is “Born Again?”	Salvation
Lesson #2	What to Do When You Fall	Confession of Sin
Lesson #3	What About Baptism?	Baptism
Lesson #4	How to Pray & Why Should I?	Prayer
Lesson #5	Bible Study: Making it Personal	Bible Study
Lesson #6	Obedience Brings Blessing	Obedience
Lesson #7	Church Membership Matters	Membership
Lesson #8	Tithes & Offerings: Bible Principles	Giving
Lesson #9	Overcoming Sexual Sin & Temptation	Victory
Lesson #10	Our Lord’s Commission	Witnessing
Lesson #11	Putting Anger & Bitterness to Rest	Bitterness
Lesson #12	Alcohol & Other Addictive Substances	Addictions
Lesson #13	Music and the Christian	Music
Lesson #14	Social Media, TV, Movies, The Internet & The Future	Media
Lesson # 15	Biblical Separation: The Dangers of Compromise	Separation
Lesson #16	Bloom Where You’re Planted! Staying in the City	City Ministry
Lesson #17	Happiness Forever: The Fruit of Faithfulness	Heaven

If you have questions, ask your mentor to help you.
If he or she can’t help you, they will help you set up an appointment
with a pastor at our church. They are here to help you!