

Word of Hope Christian Family Church



How *to* Study *the* BIBLE



Cell Group Convergence

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HOW TO CONDUCT PERSONAL STUDY THE BIBLE

[Adapted from Howard Hendricks' How to Study the Bible]

The study of the Word of God is not an option but essential.

However, we need to take certain steps in a certain order to guarantee certain results.

Why Study the Bible?

1. It is essential for Spiritual Growth [1 Peter 2:2]
 - a. **Attitude** for the Word of God [Like a new born baby]
 - b. **Appetite** for the Word of God [As new born baby develop an appetite for the Word of God]
 - c. **Aim** of the Word – “you may grow thereby..’] In order **TO GROW** NOT TO KNOW.
2. It is essential to Spiritual **Maturity** [Heb 5:1-14]
3. It is essential for Spiritual **Effectivity** [1Tim 3:16 -17]

Importance of Studying the Bible

- There is no growth apart from the Word of God.
- For us to become receptive and reproductive.
- It always by means of first hand appointment
 - It will enable you to think.
 - It will enable to evaluate the thoughts of others.
 - It will give you the personal joy of discovery.
 - It will enable you to fall in love with the Scriptures.



Good
Observation

Accurate
Interpretation

Legitimate
Application



Summary of the Process

Observation

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “**What do I see?**” This is the crucial skill of **observation**, and it lays the groundwork for the rest of our study.

- Learn to Read
- Learn what to look for

Interpretation

- What is it that you are looking for in the process of interpretation? What does it mean?

The more you learn to see the more you understand. Some of us see but we do not understand. Ask the right questions and bombard the text with questions.

Interpretation

- How do you discover the right answer?
- The answer comes from the process of observation.
- How to uncover the big picture?

Application

- This is asking the question “How does it work?” Not “Does it work?” This is God’s answer to the problem.
- The goal is not information but **transformation**.
- God’s is not written to make you a smarter sinner but it is written to make you like the Son. [2 Cor. 5:17].

Application

- The word of God is designed to invade every area of our lives.
 - **How does it work for me?**
 - **How does it work for others?**

We should share it on the basis of authenticity not as a perfect person but someone who is in the process of becoming like the Son.

PROCESS OF BIBLE STUDY

Observation

Six questions that we need to answer in the process of observation

1. WHO?

- Who are these people?
- What do others tell about these people?
- What do they say?
- What do you understand about a person in the passage you can relate to what you already knew?

PROCESS OF BIBLE STUDY

Observation

WHO is...

- *...Paul talking about?*
- *...accomplishing the action?*
- *...benefiting from it?*

2. **WHAT?**

- What is taking place? Is it a parable? Is it a miracle?
- Is it a command? Is it an explanation?

PROCESS OF BIBLE STUDY

3. WHERE?

- What is the location?; Where did it happen?
Where is this taking place?
- The geography of the bible is a blind spot of millions of educated people.

4. WHEN?

- What time when the event happened?
- Example: Mark 1:35” And in the morning...
- What morning?

5. WHY?

- Why did God include this in the bible?
- Wherefore? So What?
- How does it relate to my life?
- What difference it could make if I apply this?
- How does it work in the financial area of my life?

6. Wherefore? So What?

- How does it relate to my life?*
- What difference it could make if I apply this?*
- How does it work in the financial area of my life?*

Illustration

Mark 4: 35 - 42

Mark 4: 35 - 42

- ³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”
- ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
- ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”
- ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Illustration: Mark 4: 35 – 42

- **What** preceded this event?
 - Jesus was teaching his disciples. A series of parables. Teaching them to listen.
- **What** follows this event?
- **Who?**
 - Jesus, who is the teacher.
 - Disciples, who are the students.

Illustration: Mark 4: 35 – 42

- **What?**

- **What did Jesus say?**

- “ Let us go to the other side of the lake.”

- “ Quiet! Be still!”

- “ Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Illustration: Mark 4: 35 – 42

- **What did the disciples say?**

“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

- **What happen?**

- **Where? Sea of Galilee**

- **When? What time is it? At night. At the scary sea.**

- It adds significance to scene.

Illustration: Mark 4: 35 – 42

- **Why?**

- Remember that these were fishermen.
- Jesus is teaching the disciples to trust him in every situation.
- It is teaching me that when Jesus Christ is in my boat, I will not sink.
- Bear in mind that they have only witness miracles but never experienced it themselves.

- **So, what now?**

- **How do I listen to Jesus Christ?**

- When He said, “Let us go to the other side of the lake”

INTERPRETATION

Five Keys to Interpretation

1. Content

- The more time you spend in observation the less time you will spend on interpretation, the more accurate is your application. This is absolutely crucial to the process of bible study. We need to do continued reading and perceptive meditation.

INTERPRETATION

Five Keys to Interpretation

2. Context

Context gives the meaning. This has to do with the verses before and the verses after. Every verse has a relation to every other verse. No verse in the Scriptures stands in isolation.

- Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question.

INTERPRETATION

Five Keys to Interpretation

3. Comparison

–Comparison of Scripture with Scripture

4. Culture

–Remember the cultures are different from one place to another.

INTERPRETATION

Five Keys to Interpretation

5. Consultation

- Bible atlas, Bible commentary, Bible Helps, Bible Customs and Manners

Illustration:

Romans 12: 1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Illustration: Romans 12: 1-2

1. Content

– Relate this passage to the book.

– Chapters 1-8 Doctrinal

9-11- Dispensational

12- 16 – Practical

– *Why does he use the term, “I urge you”?*

– *What does the word mean “present”?*

– *What does Paul wants us to present?*

– *If it is a sacrifice, how could it be living?*

2. Context

- ***What about the content? It started with “Therefore... “The first 11 chapters become the basis.***

3. Comparison

- **Negative**
 - **V2. Don't be conformed to this world**
 - **Chapter 8, we have been conformed to the image of Christ.**
- **Positive**
 - **V2 – Be transformed... metamorphosis....**

4. Culture

– *What is prominent of this passage?*

- OT – They presented animal to God
- NT – Now they are presenting their bodies as sacrifice.

5. Consultation

– Read the text first before the secondary sources.

APPLICATION

- **To Know**
 - This is always built on interpretation. We should have accurate interpretation to have legitimate application.
- **To Relate**
 - Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - *How do I relate this truth to me and to my family?*
- **To Meditate**
 - Joshua 1:8 [The Key is mastering God's Word]
 - Psalm 1:1-2; Psalm 119:6 [Our spiritual life depended on it.]
- **To Practice**
 - Ask God to help you apply what you know and understand. Being involved in the ministry and relate the truth in everyday living.

Questions to Ask in the Process of Application

- **Is there an example to follow?**
- **Is there a sin to avoid?**
- **Is there a promise to claim?**
- **Is there a prayer to repeat?**
- **Is there a command to obey?**
- **Is there a condition to make?**
- **Is there a verse or a passage to memorize?**
- **Is there a challenge to follow?**

Illustration: Ezra 7:10

“For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

- Chapters 1 – 6 Rebuilding of the temple
 - 58-year time gap. God was preparing a man.
- Chapters 7 - 11 Rebuilding of the temple.

Observation: 3 actions

study, do, teach

Ezra knew the word, practiced it and taught it to others.

Where do we go from here?

- **Make a decision to make a regular bible study program.** Do not study for a course but study for a lifetime ministry.
 - Start small-15 minutes a day.
 - Study book by book
- **Make a personal plan.** Need for time and bible study.
- **Form a Bible Study Group.** Get together as a team. Be accountable to each other.
- **Evaluate the Process**
 - *What are the strengths of what I am doing?*
 - *What are the weaknesses of what I am doing?*
 - *What do I need to change on the basis of my evaluation?*

TO GOD BE THE
GLORY!