

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

INVER GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL BIBLE STUDY 2025

JAIME SCHUESSLER



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Welcome to the Fall 2025 Bible Study

This quarter we will be looking at Personal Bible Studies as our topic, we will be using Sunday Mornings, Small Groups and Wednesday Evenings to go over this material.

I, personally, am excited as the topic is one that never is complete, this study will help you and me to become more efficient in our own bible study techniques. As in all my classes I value the class input (primarily so I can learn too ☺)

Please take the time to prepare each week for this class so you can be a part of encouraging your brethren.

Sunday Mornings we will look at styles of study, you will see these in the table of contents, Sunday afternoons will be more like a workshop where each of the groups will be tasked to complete the Bible Study preparation for that style of study.

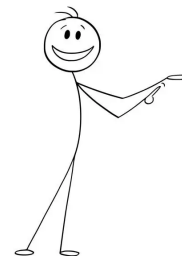
Wednesday evening, we will share our findings from our own personal studies as well as the groups discussion and findings.

This is going to be different, but I am sure we are all going to help another become better students of studying God's word.

Jaime

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Genesis	Nahum
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Deuteronomy	Zechariah
Joshua	Malachi
Judges	Matthew
Ruth	Mark
1 Samuel	Luke
2 Samuel	John
1 Kings	Acts
2 Kings	Romans
1 Chronicles	1 Corinthians
2 Chronicles	2 Corinthians
Ezra	Galatians
Nehemiah	Ephesians
Esther	Philippians
Job	Colossians
Psalms	1 Thessalonians
Proverbs	2 Thessalonians
Ecclesiastes	1 Timothy
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Just kidding!

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7. Textual Bible studies (books of the Bible)
8. Studying people in the Bible (character studies)
9. Preparing a Bible study
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11. Teaching a children's Bible class
12. Looking at the different Bible versions
13. Warnings about teaching God's Word in its purity.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 1 Sunday AM

Overview of the Bible

TEN KEY POINTS

1 The Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

2 The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written over 1,600 years (from approximately 1500 Bc to AD 100) by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus. The Old Testament has 39 books (written approximately 1500-400 c). The New Testament has 27 books (written approximately AD 45-100). The Hebrew Bible has the same text as the English Bible's Old Testament, but divides and arranges it differently.

3 The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.

4 The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.

5 Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand. The Bible was copied very accurately, in many cases by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to ensure that no errors had been made.

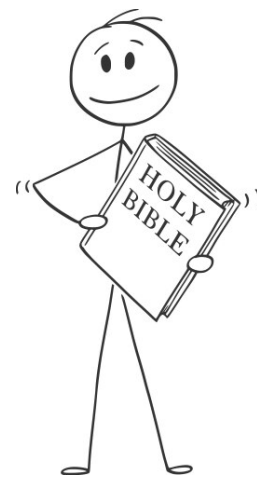
6 The Bible was the first book ever printed on the printing press with moveable type (Gutenberg Press, 1455, Latin Bible).

7 There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before 1500, nearly 5,900 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Plato or Aristotle.

8 The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the astonishing reliability of some of the copies of the Old Testament made over the years. Although some spelling variations exist, no variation affects basic Bible doctrines.

9 As the Bible was carried to other countries, it was translated into the common language of the people by scholars who wanted others to know God's Word. Today there are still 2,000 groups with no Bible in their own language.

10 By AD 200, the Bible was translated into seven languages; by 500, 13 languages; by 900, 17 languages; by 1400, 28 languages; by 1800, 57 languages; by 1900, 537 languages; by 1980, 1,100 languages; by 2014, 2,883 languages had some portions of Scripture.



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 1 Sunday Small Groups Overview of the Bible WORKSHOP # 1

Share your personal overview of the bible.

Your task today is to take turns within your group to explain the fundamentals of the bible. (one detail at a time, then discuss)

I don't want to give and examples because that will give away some answers.

If your stuck, look at the prior page to get some ideas, but try your best to come up with your own definitions.

The Question is WHAT IS THE BIBLE?



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Lesson 1 Wednesday Night Overview of the Bible

What kind of answers were shared on Sunday afternoons small groups?

What are some ways you can remember these things?

Why do you think having an overview of the bible would be a help to you or to those you may be teaching?

To gain a broad understanding of the Bible, ask questions about its structure, key figures, central themes, and its relationship to history and culture. Consider how the Bible's narrative unfolds, what it teaches about God and humanity, and how it can inform contemporary life.

Who are some of the key figures in the Bible?

What is the main message of the Bible?

What are the central themes of the Bible?

How does the Bible relate to our lives today?

What are some of the challenges in understanding and applying the Bible?

Who was the only Gentile who wrote 2 books of the bible? What were the books?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE OVERVIEW

OLD TESTAMENT - 39 BOOKS

PENTATEUCH - 5	HISTORICAL BOOKS - 12	POETRY & WISDOM - 5	MINOR PROPHETS - 12
GENESIS	JOSHUA	JOB	HOSEA
EXODUS	JUDGES	PSALMS	JOEL
LEVITICUS	RUTH	PROVERBS	AMOS
NUMBERS	1 SAMUEL	ECCLESIASTES	OBADIAH
DEUTERONOMY	2 SAMUEL	SONG OF SONGS	JONAH
	1 KINGS		MICAH
	2 KINGS		NAHUM
	1 CHRONICLES	MAJOR PROPHETS - 5	HABAKKUK
	2 CHRONICLES	ISAIAH	ZEPHANIAH
	EZRA	JEREMIAH	HAGGAI
	NEHEMIAH	LAMENTATIONS	ZECHARIAH
	ESTHER	EZEKIEL	MALACHI
		DANIEL	

NEW TESTAMENT - 27 BOOKS

GOSPELS & ACTS - 5	PAUL'S EPISTLES (LETTERS) - 13		GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATION - 9
MATTHEW	ROMANS	1 THESSALONIANS	HEBREWS
MARK	1 CORINTHIANS	2 THESSALONIANS	JAMES
LUKE	2 CORINTHIANS	1 TIMOTHY	1 PETER
JOHN	GALATIANS	2 TIMOTHY	2 PETER
ACTS	EPHESIANS	TITUS	1 JOHN
	PHILIPPIANS	PHILEMON	2 JOHN
	COLOSSIANS		3 JOHN
			JUDE
			REVELATION

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 2 Sunday AM

How did we get the Bible?

What is the short answer?

Many articles have been written on this topic, where did the bible come from?

How We Got the Bible • 1

Old Testament Written
(approx. 1500-400 BC)



stone

clay

leather

New Testament Written
(approx. AD 45-100)



papyrus

The oldest New Testament fragment (from John 18) that we have today was copied in Greek on a papyrus codex around AD 110-130.

Bible Copied on Papyrus



Scrolls of leather, and later of papyrus, were used to make copies of the Scriptures.

A papyrus codex is a bound volume made from sheets folded and sewn together, sometimes with a cover. They were used more than scrolls after AD 1-100.



Bible Copied on Fine Animal Skins



Fine quality animal skins from calves or antelope (vellum) and sheep or goats (parchment) were used for over 1,000 years to make copies of the Bible approximately AD 300-1400.

Two of the oldest vellum copies (AD 325-350) that exist today are the Vatican Codex and the Sinaitic Codex.

Bible Printed by Printing Press after 1455

Wycliffe Bibles were inscribed by hand on vellum in the 1300s-1400s. Some copies took ten months to two years to produce and cost a year's wage.



The Bible was the first book to be printed with Gutenberg's printing press in 1455.

The Bible, God's Word to the World



The Bible is now printed on paper in many languages. It is also available in many digital formats.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

As John Clifford so beautifully penned in his poem, "The Hammer and The Anvil"

Last eve I passed a blacksmith's door and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime,

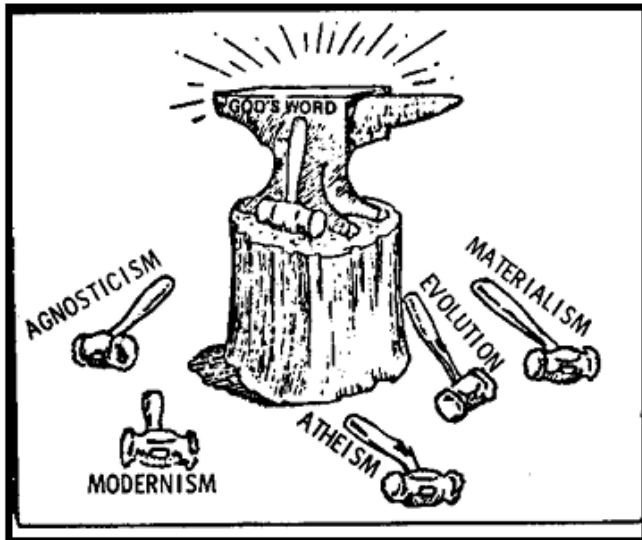
When, looking in, I saw upon the floor old hammers worn with beating years of time.

'How many anvils have you had,' said I 'To wear and batter all these hammers so?'

'Just one,' said he, then said with twinkling eye 'The anvil wears the hammers out you know.' And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word.

For ages skeptics blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,

The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone!



Who wrote this wonderful book?

Approximately forty men over a period of around 1550 years, from Moses in ca. 1500 - 1450 B.C. to John in A.D. 64-96, took part in writing "the Book." These men not only lived in various times, they came from exceedingly different walks of life - a great deliverer and lawgiver, a shepherd-warrior-king, a priest, a wise and wealthy king, a statesman, a herdsman, a fisherman, a medical doctor, a tax collector, a lawyer, and so on.

What is "the Book" about? The authors wrote about many different subjects, such as law, history, love stories, poetry, prophecy of the future, biography, evidences, conditions of churches, advice on how to live, and so forth. Yet these men all wrote with perfect harmony and unity. Impossible? If they had written without divine aid, yes. For example, do you think ten men today, from the same profession and period of time, all writing separately about just one subject, would agree on every detail?

What about forty men from various walks of life and separate times, writing about a wide assortment of subjects? Such "unity in diversity" is possible with this great "Book of books," the Bible, because God is its ultimate author. The Bible was written by inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16-17). "Inspiration" is from a Greek word, "theopneustos," meaning "God-breathed." This means the Bible is the Word of God.

Inspiration (Theopneustos)

Theos (God) + pneustos (breathed) = "God breathed"

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are able. This should be done before the Small Groups gathering.

Lesson 2 Sunday Small Groups

How did we get the Bible?

WORKSHOP #2

Define the following terms:

1. Inspiration
 2. Revelation
 3. Mystery
 4. Prophecy
 5. Old Testament
-
1. About how many men helped write the Bible?
 2. Who is the ultimate author of the Bible?
 3. What are the two great divisions of the Bible?
 4. What is the keynote of the Bible?
 5. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
 6. How many books are there in the New Testament?
 7. How good is the Bible?

[illegible]

Workshop #2 (Homework)

In the following list the New Testament Books, and their authors, and date if you

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 2 Wednesday Night

How did we get the Bible?

How did we do with the Books of the New Testament?

Is there any value to knowing these facts about the scriptures? What are they?

How are other religious books written? By who?

Do you know the History of the book of Mormon?

New World Translation a translation of the Bible published by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society; it is used and distributed by Jehovah's Witnesses.

We will discuss different translations later; these are here for us to consider where did we get the bible from.

What happened in the Old Testament when they stopped reading the Law?

What happened when they found the book?
2 Kings 22:8-11

Ezra Reads the Law. Neh 8:1-9



Without having the written word in their hands how did the Jews know the Holy Scriptures?

What were the Jews commanded to do with the Law?

Can you find any promises about the bible always being available?

What did Paul tell Timothy the bible was to be used for?

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Lesson 3 Sunday AM

Reasons for studying the bible

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

Let's read 1 Thes 2:1-13

When we read the scriptures, what topics can we learn about?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

What good habits could help studying to bible?

Let's read John 5:39-47

What is Jesus saying about God's word?

Where does faith come from?

Studying the Bible is different than reading the Bible.

When we read the Bible, we move through a text at a natural reading pace. But when we study the Bible, we slow down and we think things through. We ask questions and we search out meaning. We consider implications.

You may read Ephesians 1:1-14 in thirty seconds, but you can study it for years. You may come to the end of reading the gospel of John in two hours. But you can never come to the end of searching its depths.

This means we can expect a lifetime of happily moving deeper and deeper into God's word.

What have we personally learned by going back and studying verses reading the bible?

Tips for Studying Your Bible...



Remove distractions.

Keep a notepad beside you to write down thoughts that might divert you so you can set them aside for later.

Pray before you start.

Read and study one book at a time.

Read Chronologically.

Research new and interesting learnings.

Memorize verses or passages (or chapters).

Bonus. Don't just read it; listen to the audio Bible.

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Lesson 3 Sunday Small Groups

WORKSHOP # 3

Reasons for studying the bible

Below is a list of why we should study the scriptures, take some time to define these and talk about the impact it has on us as we study.

To learn what it says firsthand

Personal edification

To help others

Jesus' life

Because it is God's Word to us

To know God better

Avoiding error

What are some benefits of having bible studies as a group (Sunday AM and Wednesday PM)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Since we are actually in our Small Groups now, what are some benefits of having these bible studies as a group?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

pg. 12

Lesson 3 Wednesday Night

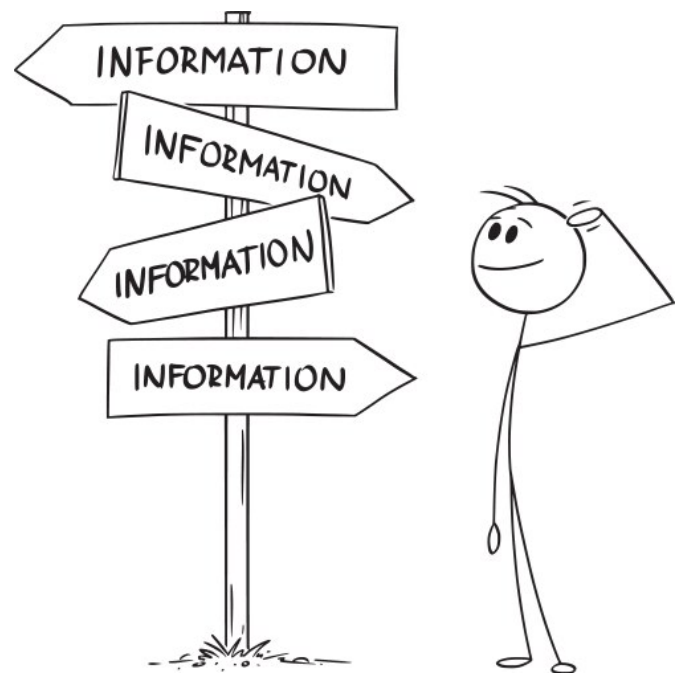
Reasons for studying the bible

Based on some of the conversations from Sunday, what would you say is the best benefit for studying the bible?

What else would you recommend to others to get them motivated to study the Bible?

What can motivate you to read more of God's word? See 1 Pet 2:2-3

What else can happen...Ecc 12:12



What do you do with all this information we learn as we study the bible?

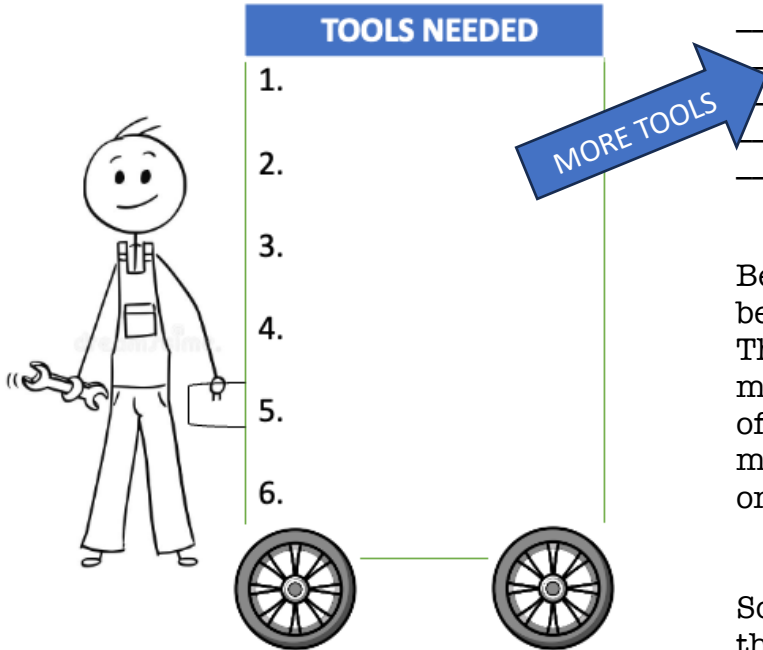
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Lesson 4 Sunday AM

Tools to study the Bible

Right off the bat, what tools would you recommend someone to use to help study the bible?

Use this space to write down tools mentioned by others in the group, (here is another advantage to group studies)



Great toolbox you have now built up, let's take 3 of those tools now and explain how they can be used to help with our bible studies.

Because God's Word is so profound, we can benefit from a variety of Bible study tools. These Bible study tools can help us gain a much deeper, more nuanced understanding of God's Word. They can bring clarity to more challenging passages and shine a light on sections that may seem confusing.

Some of the easiest tools to come by are in the back of your bible, concordances, maps, summaries of the books of the bible, yearly bible study charts, prophecies/fulfilled and more, depending on the quality of the bible more things are added.

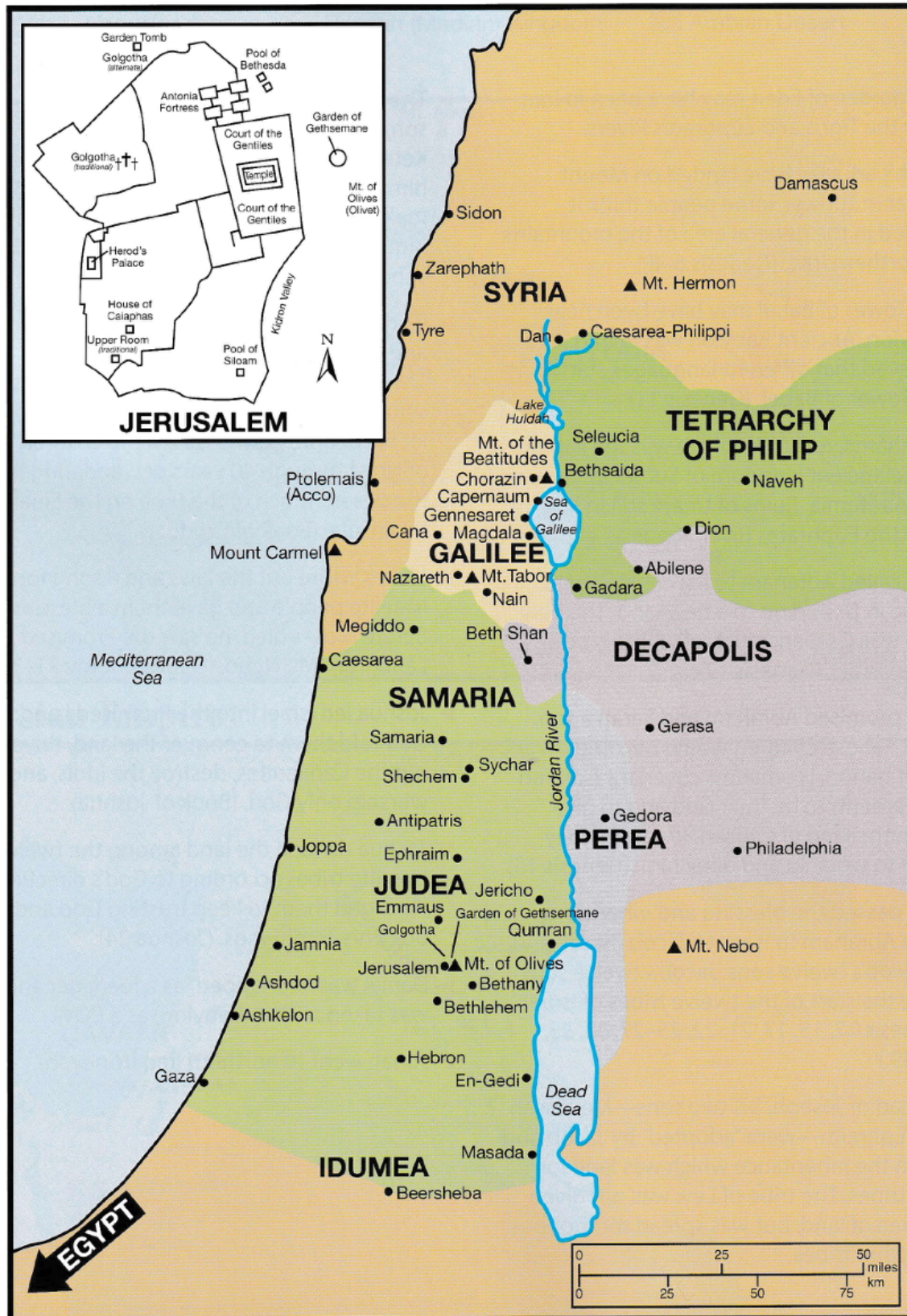
Thompson Chain-Reference Bibles

1672 p.p. Jo 1:3; He 1:10 Family Bible 884 Creator, 2:3 1550 Hebrews 11: 1 Chr 16:26 1090 Earth, 8:22	the image of God; and His blessing. 29 The appointment of food.	earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit ac- cording to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.	96 Fruit, 2 S 16:1 76 Increase
2176 p.p. Is 40:12; Jo 4:23 Darkness 11, 1:18 564 The Deep, Ps 42:7 886 Holy Spirit Creator, Jb 26:13 3634 Spirit's Names, Ps 51:11	IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was ¹ on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hov- ering over the face of the wa- ters.	12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself ac- cording to its kind. And God saw that it was good.	
3809 Omnipotence, 17:1 2165 Light, 1:17	3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.	13 So the evening and the morning were the third day. 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of	p.p. De 4:19; Ps 74:16

Like many of the bibles we use today, with references listed by the verses, this bible has an exhausted "chain-reference" built in to help find related scriptures.

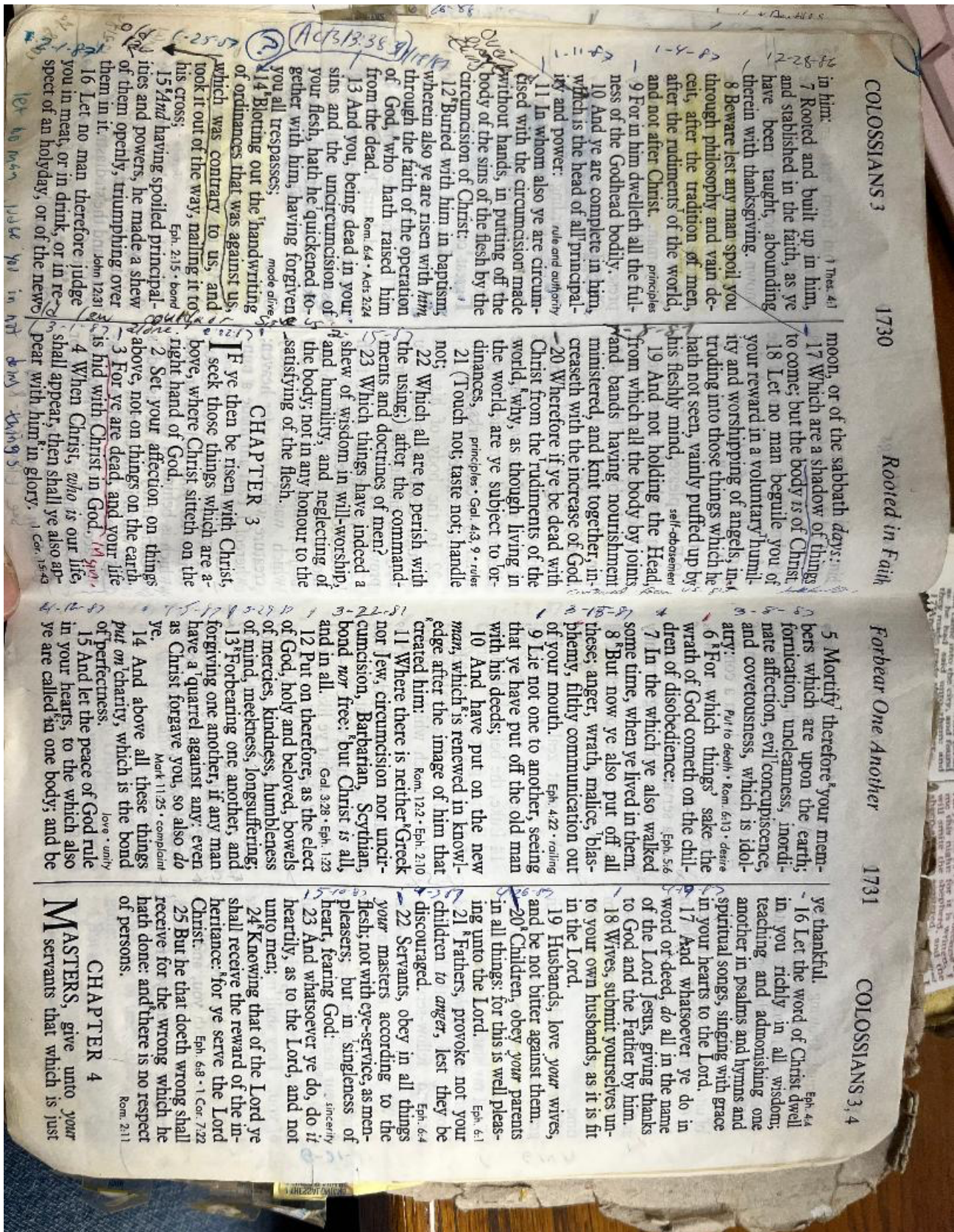
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Where Jesus Walked: Then



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Pens, pencils, and highlighters are also valuable for taking notes and marking passages.



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Lesson 4 Sunday Small Groups

WORKSHOP # 4

Tools to study the Bible

Many words in the Bible require a Bible dictionary or other reference tool to understand their meaning in the context of the text. These include words with specific theological meanings, terms related to ancient culture and customs, and words that are no longer in common usage.

Take some time before the Small Group gathering and use a dictionary, bible dictionary, or thesaurus to define these words. Yes, this is HOMEWORK!

Propitiation:

Sanctification:

Gospel:

Epistle:

Pharisee:

Sadducee:

Sanhedrin:

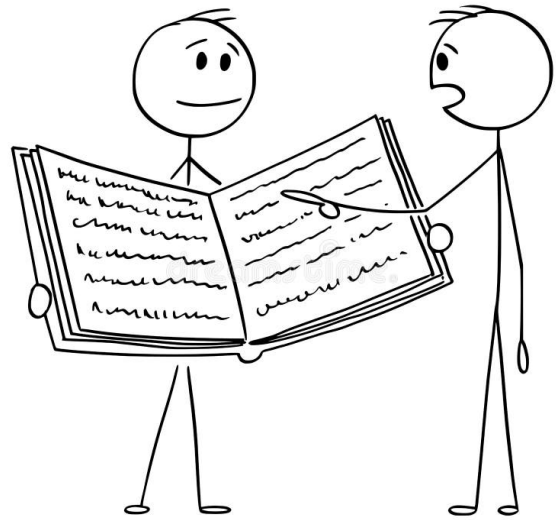
Incarnation:

Omnipotent:

Abba:

Cubit:

As you discover the definitions of all these words what value is it as you continue to study the scriptures?



There is value in understanding the correct definition or term the bible is stating, after all where is the best place to look to understand a passage, you're not quite sure about?

To study the Bible effectively, use a combination of physical and digital tools. A study Bible with notes, commentaries, and maps is helpful, as are online resources like Bible Gateway or Blue Letter Bible.

How many people have a bible on their phones?

What do you see as an advantage having a bible on your phone?

Can you think of disadvantages of using your phones as bibles?

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Lesson 4 Wednesday Night Tools to study the Bible

Now that we talked all about using the wonderful tools out there for us to use, I now want to talk about being careful when you use them.



Probably the worst “tool” you can use is HOLLYWOOD, movies, series, documentaries and Veggie Tales.

So let it be written;
So let it be done

I am not saying don't watch them, just be careful we don't take them as truth.

The Prime Video series "House of David" is not a literal, word-for-word retelling of the biblical story of David. While it draws heavily from the biblical narrative, it takes creative liberties to develop characters, flesh out plot, and add context, drawing on other biblical texts and Jewish traditions. The show's creators acknowledge this, emphasizing that it's a historical drama with elements from the Bible, rather than a strict adaptation.

This is probably what many do as they write books about the bible.

Remember Ecc 12:12

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Sadly, to say: there is a lot of stuff out there that is just not truth. This not only makes us bible students, but careful ones too.

Typically, you will catch a reference marked in your bible when it is not correct, no big deal, it just does not relate to the word or thought you were studying.

Bibles that are full of commentaries on the pages of your bible should always be looked at with much care.

Bible commentaries offer valuable insights into biblical passages, but they should be approached with discernment and humility. While they can enhance understanding, it's crucial to remember that they represent individual interpretations and not absolute truths.

Understanding Warnings about Bible Commentaries:

Not Infallible:

Commentaries are written by humans and are subject to error and bias.

Diverse Interpretations:

Different commentaries may offer varying interpretations of the same passages, reflecting different theological perspectives.

Context is Key:

Understanding the historical, cultural, and literary context of a passage is crucial for accurate interpretation, and commentaries can help with this.

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Discernment:

Readers should engage with commentaries critically, seeking to understand the author's perspective and comparing different viewpoints.

Warning Passages:

Some passages in the Bible, like those in Hebrews, contain warnings about potential consequences of neglecting faith.

Independent Thinking:

The Bible encourages Christians to engage in their own thinking and reasoning, so commentaries should not be taken as the final word on all matters.

Just like movies and commentaries are not 100% accurate, neither are some liberal writers, dictionaries, chain-references, even people who profess they themselves are good bible scholars, we all need to search the scriptures daily to see that they are so. (Acts 17:11)

John 5:39 Search the scriptures;....

Jer 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

What can happen if one depends on these references, commentaries, documentaries, TV shows, movies and Veggie Tales as the written word rather than the Holy Scriptures?

Here is a list of problems I can see, what can you add to my list and then let's talk about the final list

Pride

Division

Confusion

Apostasy

Warnings about changing, adding, removing anything from God's Word.

Deuteronomy. _____

Proverbs. _____

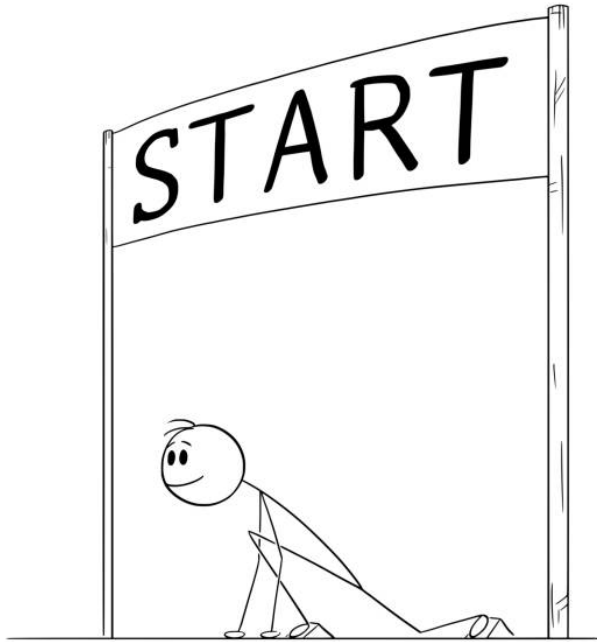
Revelation _____



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Lesson 5 Sunday AM

Where should we start our Bible Study?



The best place to start a Bible study depends on your goals and preferences, but here are some good options to consider:

For New Believers or those new to Bible Study:

The Gospel of John: This book provides a clear introduction to Jesus' life, teachings, and purpose, emphasizing God's love.

The Gospel of Mark: A shorter, fast-paced account of Jesus' ministry, making it easy to read and understand.

The Book of Acts: Explores the beginnings of the Christian church and the spread of the Gospel, demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

Set up a routine, give yourself a time limit, so you don't get overwhelmed, find a quiet place with little or no distractions, try not to chase rabbits. (stay focused, on track)

Use the tools we talked about earlier.

Write questions down to either study later or ask someone else later.

Ask someone else to study the same thing and then later compare notes.

Apply what you have learned.

Name a few things we discussed already in getting familiar with your bible to start a good personal study.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I have seen this acronym tossed around, for what it is worth

Use a simple Bible study method – SOAP

There are several different methods for studying the Bible. One great option for beginners is the SOAP method. SOAP is a great way to read and apply God's word to your life.

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SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer.

Scripture – Read the Bible passage

Observation – What is the meaning of the verse? What are some things you notice about the context of the Bible verse (why it was written and to whom?)

Application – How does this verse apply to my life? How does it apply to my family or church?

Prayer – End your time with prayer

This is similar to this prayer model

The **ACTS** prayer method is a framework that guides prayer by focusing on four key elements:

Adoration,

Confession,

Thanksgiving,

Supplication.

It's a structured way to pray, helping individuals connect with God and express different aspects of their relationship with Him.



Lesson 5 Sunday Small Groups
WORKSHOP # 5

Where should we start our Bible Study?

For this workshop were going to consider the best place to start a personal bible study.

What did we mention earlier that might be a good place to start? Why?

Let's go to that book and pull out a few things that would get a beginners tastebuds working.

Knowing that most of us are not beginners, what would you recommend for others to start reading first?

What did we conclude would be some bad places to start, and why?

Share with your small group a book or favorite passage you were excited to find.

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Lesson 5 Wednesday Night Where should we start our Bible Study?

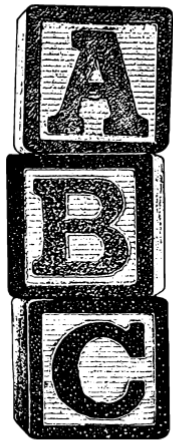
From small groups....

What other places were shared that might be a good place to start a personal bible study for a beginner?

What was said about a book or favorite passage some were excited to find?

The following image is from Brother David Padfield, this is a handout he provides on his website.

The ABC's Of The Bible



A is for **Abraham**, the father of the faithful
B is for **Baptism**, the way believers get into Christ
C is for **Christ** who died on the Cross
D is for the **Deacons** who serve in the Lord's church
E is for the **Elders** who oversee the work of the church
F is for **Faith** which comes from hearing the word of God
G is for **God** who created this world
H is for the **Holy Spirit** who revealed God's word
I is for the **Israelites** who were God's chosen people
J is for **Jerusalem**, where the church was established
K is for the three great **Kings** of Israel: Saul, David & Solomon
L is for the **Love** God showed when He gave His only Son
M is for **Moses** who led God's people out of Egypt
N is for the **Narrow** road which leads to heaven
O is for our **Obedience** which pleases God
P is for **Peter** and **Paul** who preached God's word
Q is for the **Quaking** of the mountains when God gave the Law
R is for the **Rainbow** God gave Noah after the Flood
S is for **Satan**, the enemy of God's people
T is for the **Ten Commandments** given to Moses at Mt. Sinai
U is for the **Unity** of God's people
V is for the **Victory** that will be ours
W is for the **Word of God** revealed in the Bible
X is for the **Exodus** of God's people from Egypt to Canaan
Y is for the **Young** who must always remember God
Z is for the **Zeal** shown by Christians

Do You Know Your ABC's?

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There are many versions of this available, please note this is from a brother in Christ.

There are many other tracts and other materials out there to use for new Christians, we have some in the library...



Again, we need to be careful when using these tools, they are written by men, I would say the ones we have are scriptural and some of us know the authors.

What are the pros and cons of using these types of tools?

How can this impact our personal bible study?

Ecc 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

1 Thes 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

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

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 6 Sunday AM

Topical Bible studies

This is probably my favorite type of study, just when you think you have got all you need to understand a topic, BOOM another verse pops up and you get a deeper understanding of the word.

There are many methods to study the Bible. All are important if we want to have a complete understanding of what the Bible teaches. Topical studies are part of that process and may be the next step beyond simple Bible reading.

Deu 13:14 Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently;

Jhn 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Jer 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Ecc 1:13a And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven

Ecc 7:25 I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

These scriptures above have different meanings in their own contexts, but the point of searching for more knowledge, drives one to keep going and finding that key verse to gain the best understanding of the topic at hand.

[You may have noticed I searched on the word "search" for these verses]

pg. 22

Gather Reference Materials

The next step in completing a topical study of the bible is to gather any reference supplies that you may want to use. These supplies will help you to dive deeper into the meaning of words that stick out to you during your study and can give you insight into the actual translations. Suggested reference materials include:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

From previous lessons

Choose a Topic

The possibilities are endless when it comes to the focus of your topical bible study! As mentioned previously, all you need to do to get started with this method of bible study is to ask the question, "What does the bible say about ____?"

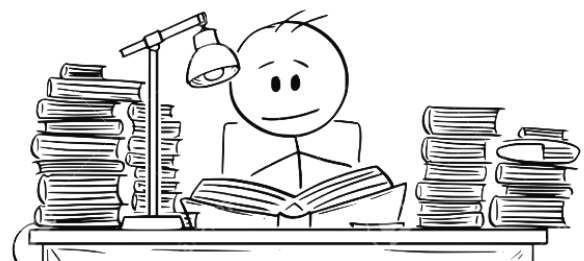
It might be a good idea to write down what you know about the topic first then search the text to confirm your understanding.

Example: What do I know about baptism?

Now let's look to the text and read the verses that help us understand the topic.

Remember to use your reference materials.

Our small group will include homework.



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 6 Sunday Small Groups

Topical Bible studies

WORKSHOP # 6

Here we are in the small groups, I would hope some of this work is already done you you can share of the things you found out in our topical study today.

We are going to keep the topic of Baptism for our example in this workshop.

One of the things I found out in looking up topics sometimes the word I am looking for has different words defining it as it is used in sentences, let me show you what I mean.

A quick one is SING; you may want to look at SUNG as a variation of the word.

I know in Acts 2 there was a baptism When I search for the word baptism it is not there ...

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Your reference materials will help you find the scripture as you look at all the words associated with the topic.

My bible concordance lists these topics in the back of my bible

BAPTISM
BAPTIST
BAPTIZE
BAPTIZED
BAPTIZING

On my computer I get this list

BAPTISM
BAPTIST
BAPTIZE
BAPTIZED
BAPTIZING
BAPTIZEST
BAPTISMS

This I was able to do with a “wildcard search” om the word [BAPT] this is what that search yielded...

KJV Search Results
91 Verses Found, 115 Matches

For the workshop...

Look in the back of your bibles for the concordance, (most bibles have one, and they are all different) look for words that may have multiple uses in scripture

Look at these words and write down similar words to study in a topical study

COMMAND

FAITH

HEAR

LOVE

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 6 Wednesday Night

Topical Bible studies

How did we do with the word searches in the small groups?

My computer searched the word LOVE with the wildcard feature and found...

KJV Search Results
547 Verses Found, 646 Matches

LOVEST
LOVE
LOVED
LOVETH
CLOVENFOOTED
CLOVEN
BELOVED
LOVELY
LOVER
LOVERS
WELLBELOVED

What is wrong with the results here?

Just as it is quick and easy to find scriptures, we need to be mindful of the results, they may not all be connected to the topic we are searching out.

Don't forget homonyms, are words that are spelled and pronounced the same in conversational English but have totally different meanings!

Address-Address
Bat-Bat
Band-Band
Mean-Mean
Spring-Spring

Some versions of the bible have the same word, but have different meanings.

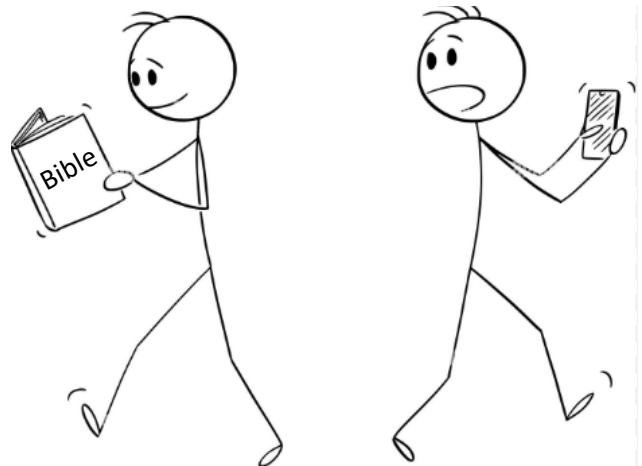
COMMUNICATE

(KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

“To share with others (objectively or subjectively): - communicate, distribute, be partaker.”

There are others I just wanted to make the point to be careful, what do we always say about a verse we don't quite understand?

Using our bibles or electronics we have the tools to find scriptures for all the topics in God's word. Always consider the context!



Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you

Presenting a bible study based on a topic can be a very good study, be careful as with all presentations we just don't have a long list of scriptures and just read them, they are all connected, spelling out a wonderful message, and with care and prayer, we can successfully share a topic from God's word

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 7 Sunday AM

Textual Bible studies

What is a textual Bible Study?

Another word for this is expository



ex·pos·i·to·ry

/ikˈspāziˌtôrē/

adjective

intended to explain or describe something.

"formal expository prose"

Similar:

[explanatory](#)

[descriptive](#)

[describing](#)



Sure we can just read through the scriptures, I am sure if you slow down and try to get the meaning of the verse, the words, the point that's being made we will be more able to apply it better.

What's the rule about understanding text in the bible?

We studied last week about the word baptism, lets look at this verse in Acts 2:38

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

A topical bible study may take you into trying to understand baptism more, but this lesson is about Textual Bible Studies.

So were going to start at the same verse and now look at the context and see what else is said here in Acts 2

Read from 38-47

So instead of just focusing on baptism, what else is said here in this chapter?

Where else in scripture can we see the teaching of baptism? What is the context around those scriptures?

By reading these examples of baptism, can we conclude what someone is to do after baptism?

Is that as important as the baptism itself?

What 2 (or 4) Old Testament books give many details of accounts in scripture, that actually retell the accounts with slight variations?

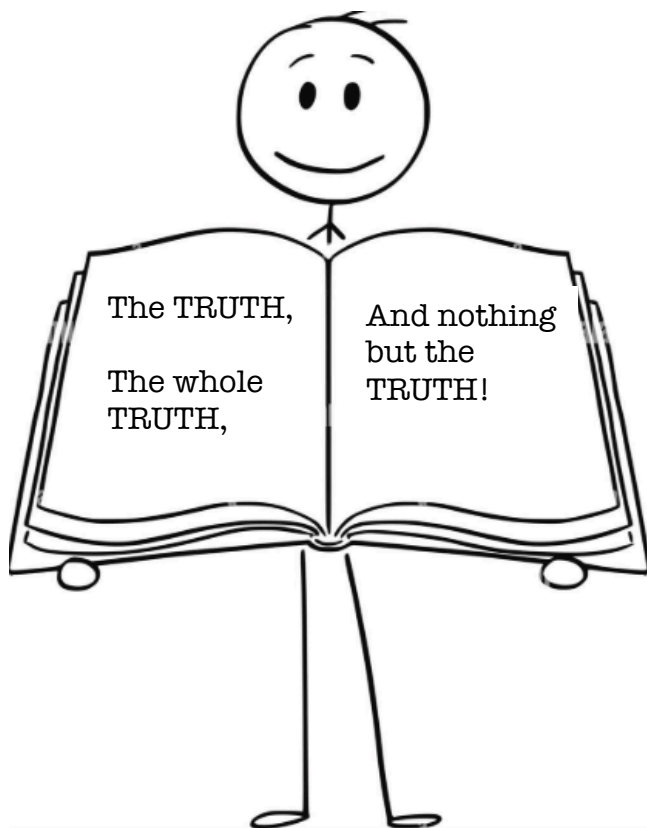
PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

What 4 New Testament books are telling the same story?

When we read ALL the text we can understand not only the accounts, but the writer's perspective.

Challenges we will have is running off with a thought in the text and leave the BIG picture, that is never a problem except when you're trying to do a textual/expository study.

,



Any other thoughts about Textual studies?

Lesson 7 Sunday Small Groups

Textual Bible studies

WORKSHOP # 7

This workshop we will be looking at the 3rd Book of John. READ BEFORE DISCUSSING

Greeting

3Jn 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. :2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. :4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Support and Opposition

:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; :6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: :7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. :8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth. :9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. :10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. :11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. :12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Final Greetings

:13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: :14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

These 14 verses have a lot of things to look at, let's break down the text to understand it better.

Note that some bibles put a summary heading in the text, this is just to help readers break up the text. (in boxes)

Who wrote this book?

Who is this letter written to?

What is the over-all message?

What are the names of those mentioned?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What do we know about these men?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are some Key Lessons we can learn from 3rd John?

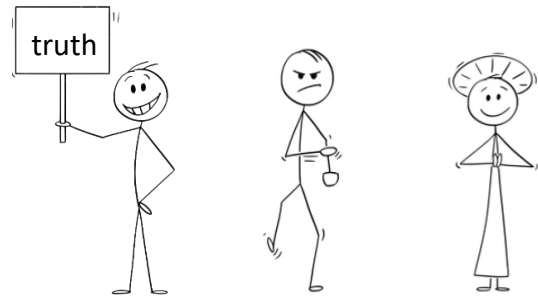
Using our tool-box if we searched these three men throughout the bible, what would we find out about them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

[remember the warnings about searching words, names etc. They may not be connected]

Are there any other passages we can connect to this account to understand it better?

Once we read and understand the message, as a Christian today what do you do with this text?



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 7 Wednesday Night Textual Bible studies

Taking scriptures out of context means interpreting or applying a biblical verse without considering its original setting, author's intent, or the surrounding text. This practice can lead to misinterpretations, misunderstandings, and even the development of false doctrines or harmful practices.

Why is it a problem?

Misinterpretation:

.
Isolating a verse from its context can twist its meaning and lead to a different understanding than the author intended.

False Doctrines:

.
Taking verses out of context can be used to support heretical views or justify harmful actions.

Loss of Meaning:

.
When verses are detached from their original context, the richness and depth of their meaning are often lost.

Think of other topics that there are many controversial statements made, what comments on topics do we hear where we can see the context was not looked at?

How to avoid taking verses out of context:

Read the surrounding text:

Pay attention to the verses immediately before and after the passage you are studying.

Consider the historical and cultural context:

Understand the time period and circumstances in which the text was written

Consult commentaries and study resources:

Seek guidance from trusted biblical scholars and resources that provide context.

Be aware of your own biases:

Recognize that your own perspectives and experiences can influence how you interpret scripture

What doctrines out there have we heard that are taught as doctrine, but yet they are out of context?

Can we as Christians take things out of context?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 8 Sunday AM

Studying people in the Bible

(Also known as character studies)

Why would we want to do a study on people in the bible?

Old Testament characters

Abraham: Often referred to as the "father of many nations," his story in Genesis 12-22 highlights themes of faith, obedience, and God's covenant promises.

Moses: A pivotal figure who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God. His story is found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

David: Renowned as "the man after God's own heart" and the slayer of Goliath. His life, detailed in 1 and 2 Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, showcases leadership, worship, and struggles with sin.

Joseph: His story in Genesis reveals themes of family conflict, perseverance through hardship, forgiveness, and God's providential care.

Esther: A Jewish queen who bravely risked her life to save her people from destruction, described in the Book of Esther.



New Testament figures

Jesus Christ: The central figure of the Bible, his life, teachings, death, and resurrection are recounted in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

Paul: A prominent apostle and missionary, his journeys and letters are documented in Acts and numerous New Testament epistles.

Peter: A leader among Jesus' disciples, who played a significant role in the early church.

Mary, Mother of Jesus: Her role in God's plan of salvation is a focus of study for many Christians.

What can we learn as modern-day Christians about the characters in the scriptures?

What does God reveal to us about his children in scripture?

A reminder, what should we be careful when looking up scriptures about specific men and women in the bible?

What if the scriptures we come up about certain people with seem to contradict another?

What are good /bad attributes we can find about God's people in the bible?

Why do we know so much about some men and women in the bible?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 8 Sunday Small Group Studying people in the Bible WORKSHOP # 8

Let's read about the virtuous woman in
Proverbs 31:10-31

Now let's do a character study on her, this
has to be one of my wife's favorite studies,
why do you think that?

First note she has no name, so place your
name in there as a woman, (men place a
woman in your life's name there)

There are so many things to learn about
her, what you can learn from her
examples?

Before class write down her godly
attributes.....

During class listen to what other things are
shared about her.

Next read of the strange woman in
Proverbs 7: 5-27

Do a character study on her, look to all the
devices she uses to not only sin herself, but
to cause stumbling blocks for other and
cause them so sin.

Note she has no name either, yet still today
she is still around us, do your best to NOT
put your name in this account!

There are so many things to learn about
her, what you can learn from her
examples?

Before class write down her wicked
attributes.....

During class listen to what other things are
shared about her.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 8 Wednesday Night

Studying people in the Bible

What kind of things did you discover about the woman in Proverbs 31 at your small groups?

What kind of things did you discover about the woman in Proverbs 7 at your small groups?

Ecc 7:1a A good name is better than precious ointment;

Why do people name their children Matthew, John, Andrew, Paul, Michael, Ruth, Sarah, Elisabeth, Mary?

Why don't we know anyone named Judas, Haman, or Jezabel?

Who do you want to be like when you grow up? Why?

When we take the time to read, look-up and study people in the bible we are not just able to see their godly attributes, but learn them.

What was David known for?

What was Jerimiah know for?

What was Peter known for?

What was Abigail known for?

Character studies in the Bible offer valuable insights into human nature, God's character, and how to live a life pleasing to Him. By examining the lives of biblical figures, both positive and negative examples, we can learn about faith, obedience, the consequences of sin, the importance of relationships, and the application of biblical principles to our own lives

Learning from Positive Examples:

Characters like Noah, Joseph, and Ruth demonstrate faith, perseverance, and God's provision in challenging circumstances.

Learning from Negative Examples:

Characters like Adam and Eve, King Saul, and Judas Iscariot illustrate the consequences of sin, disobedience, and betrayal.

Developing Faith and Obedience:

By observing the faith and obedience of characters like Abraham and Moses, we can be inspired to trust God's promises and follow His commands.

Recognizing Human Frailty:

The Bible doesn't shy away from showcasing the flaws and failures of its characters, reminding us that we are all prone to sin and need God's grace and forgiveness.

Finding Comfort and Encouragement:

The stories of flawed but ultimately redeemed characters like Peter can offer comfort and encouragement, reminding us that God can work through our weaknesses and use us despite our past mistakes.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 9 Sunday AM

Preparing a Bible study

Preparing an effective Bible study involves several key steps that focus on understanding the text, engaging participants, and applying the lessons to everyday life.

1. Ground your study in prayer and the passage

Start with Prayer: Begin by asking God for wisdom and guidance as you prepare, prying the Holy Spirit and Scripture will guide the discussion.

Choose a Main Passage: Select a specific passage or set of verses that will be the core of your study. This provides a solid foundation and prevents the study from becoming too broad or unfocused.

What kind of studies have we talked about so far?

Study the Passage Thoroughly: Read the chosen passage multiple times, carefully observing the context, key words, themes, structure, and literary form. You can utilize a Study Bible, Bible commentaries, concordances, and other resources to deepen your understanding.

Identify the Main Point: Strive to understand the author's primary message and purpose in writing the passage, and ensure your interpretation aligns with the context and the overall message of the Bible.

Consider the Context: Explore the historical, cultural, and literary context of the passage, recognizing how the original audience would have understood it.

2. Structure your lesson for engagement and application

Create Thought-Provoking Questions: Design questions that encourage discussion, personal reflection, and a deeper understanding of the passage. Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no".

Develop a Plan for Discussion: Structure the discussion to move from observation (what the text says) to interpretation (what it means) and finally to application (how it impacts our lives).

Incorporate Interactive Activities: Consider using activities like group discussions, or creative exercises to make the study more engaging and memorable.

Select a Memory Verse: Choose a key verse that summarizes a central truth of the lesson and encourages participants to internalize it.

Explore Applications: Dedicate time for participants to consider how the passage applies to their own lives and how they can practically live out the lessons learned.

Encourage Participation: Invite everyone to share their insights, paying attention to quieter members and gently encouraging them to contribute.

Be a Facilitator, not a Lecturer: Guide the discussion and allow space for the Holy Spirit to work, refraining from dominating the conversation with your own opinions or knowledge.

Listen Actively: Pay attention to what participants are saying, and affirm their contributions.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 9 Sunday Small Group Preparing a Bible study WORKSHOP # 9



Today's workshop is going to be putting together the framework of a bible class.

Things just don't fall into place, the preparation needs thought out, and then the work begins.

First question you should answer is who is the audience?

Give examples of an audience

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Second, consider what the need is for the group or the individual, for example the elders talk every year about what the church needs, we look at OT Studies, NT Studies, Topical Studies like Love, Forgiveness, and Teachings on the church.

If this is preparations for an individual bible study, consider asking the person you will study with to see if there is an area to start the study with them.

As a small group, come up with a topic

TOPIC: _____

What kind of History can you speak of this topic as an introduction?

Come up with a few sample questions you can share on Wednesday night

Be Prepared as you write questions, they may inspire other questions asked by the students, so be ready to answer them too.

As a teacher, what are your expectations during and after the study?

Write down some tips we talked about you should practice while conducting the bible study....

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 9 Wednesday Night

Preparing a Bible study

Let's talk about the WORKSHOP on Sunday afternoon for a while

(share your answers and write down other groups answers so we all learn more today)

What topics did you all come up with?

What types of questions were listed?

What were some expectations you noted?

What were the tips that were shared?

What can we do wrong when we are preparing a bible study?

Rabbit holes (stay on topic)

Too much information (scriptures)

Too deep of a study (for the intended audience)

Bad questions (Yes, No answers)

Not enough questions (lecturing)

Humility (don't try to impress with words or knowledge)

Not enough/too much material

Notes from other small groups workshops

Other things to consider

Have copies of the lesson available for note taking and for following along, include scripture for references

Even if you prepare the bible lesson, it is always a good idea to review it before class time to refresh yourself with the material. (I wrote this on July 18th 2025 10:27am)

As you prepare the lesson, try to keep in mind the flow of the study, so you don't bounce all over the place.

I have used different formats to present my bible lessons, we don't need to be too fancy, or even fancy at all, pick out the layout, and the font and start typing.

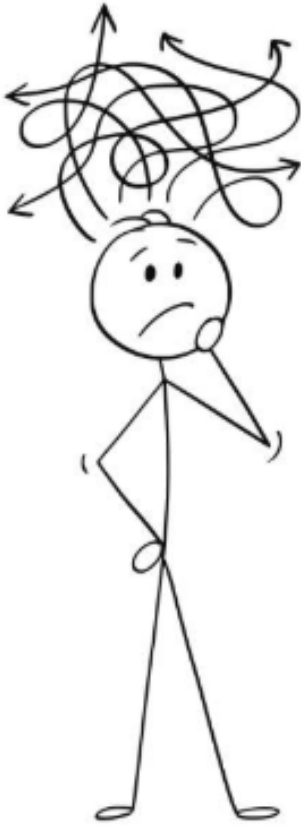
Do your best to review the questions you write so the students can answer correctly.

In preparation for Sunday's Small Group, WORKSHOP, read James 2:1-13

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 10 Sunday AM

Teaching a Bible study



"Prior Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance"

Know your material, either you wrote it or it was pre-written, know it!

When attending a bible study, it is very easy to wing it, just come and jump in once you have caught up in the lesson, when teaching you need to be ready when you get there.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

A perfect bible lesson would be to go as it was written ☺ that's not going to happen, there will be things that come up..

What can happen in a bible class, and how would you handle it?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Be prepared to go off topic when questions come up, they are important to the student, just be sure to get back on task.

If you're leading a bible study, you may have spent a lot of time preparing on a certain topic, and a student comes to you with concerning questions they have, that is where you need to start your bible study, looking at their needs.

Address Challenging Situations with Grace:

If someone gives an incorrect or off-base answer, gently redirect the conversation back to Scripture or invite others to offer their perspectives.

THINGS TO KNOW...

Know your Material

Know your Audience

Know your Setting

Know your Time Limit

Know the Depth of the study

Know these things before you start and during the study.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 10 Sunday Small Group
Teaching a Bible study
WORKSHOP # 10

Below are two pages from the study we had in James a few years ago, the workshop today is each question needs to be asked and lead in a discussion with each member of the group,



The Epistle Of

James

LAST WEEK...

- How did the small group go?
- What can you share from the small group study?
- Any questions before we move on to a new lesson?

JAMES CHAPTER TWO 1-13

Homework

Read James 2:1-13

- Look up scriptures that pertain to the Law of Liberty, What is that?
- Research other passages that talk about being guilty of all if we offend in one point (Jas 2:10)

CLASS TIME

1. James clearly states that we cannot judge a man based on his material worth, what did Jesus have? Instead of looking down on the poor what is James portraying a Christian should be doing with the poor?

2. Can we see that our faith is tested by our reaction to favoritism?

3. Lyrics from If I were a Rich Man.....

The most important men in town would come to fawn on me!
They would ask me to advise them,
Like a Solomon the Wise.

"If you please, Reb Tevye..." "Pardon me, Reb Tevye..."

Posing problems that would cross a rabbi's eyes!

And it won't make one bit of difference if I answer right or wrong.

When you're rich, they think you really know!

Why do people think this way?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY



The Epistle of

James

4. When we think like James' example in verses 2-3 what does he say we have become (Jas 2:4)
5. Explain Jas 2:5 Who are the real heirs?
6. How would we think if we loved our neighbors according to the scriptures? (Jas 2:8)
7. (Jas 2:9-10) If I do all things according to scripture, yet I have respect of persons (show favoritisms) What is God's judgement on me?
8. The example in (Jas 2:11) he's showing us how at times we can be so foolish to think, because I am not doing this horrible thing, I'm good, but am I not guilty for doing something else God forbids?
9. By what law are God's people to be judged? (Jas 2:13)
10. What kind of Mercy will be shown to those who show no mercy on others? (Jas 2:13)

**make it
real**

1. What are some repercussions of showing favoritism?
2. Besides money what other reasons do people show favoritism for?
3. Have you ever been in a place where people looked down on you because of your poverty?
4. Can you see the verses that mimic the Sermon on the Mount in these 13 verses?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 10 Wednesday Night Teaching a Bible study

How did the study on James go?

Did you feel like you were stretching yourself a little more than normal?

Remember key things, know your material, always be ready, keep on task, PRAY!

Let's look at things we can do wrong and things that can go wrong as we are teaching a bible study.

Renea and I and others have led a few Dynamic marriage classes, I know several have attended, do you remember what we put on the door before we started each week? Why?

Other things like students coming in late or many bathroom trips interrupt classes we are leading, we need to try heading them off, but more so we need to handle them smoothly.

Can our dog really eat our material? Can we forget it? Can there be technical issues?



Be flexible!

If you're leading a bible study, you may have spent a lot of time preparing on a certain topic, and students come to you with concerning questions they have, that is where you need to start your bible study, looking at their needs.

Set up a routine, give yourself a time limit, so you don't overwhelm your students, find a quiet place with little or no distractions, try not allow them to chase rabbits. (stay focused, on track)

Engage! The best part of a bible study is engaging with the students, you the teacher will go home learning something too, that's win-win situation.

Refrain for lecturing the whole class, some may be needed, encourage others to share or read scripture, or read the questions in the material.

Fire hose

Describe this concept



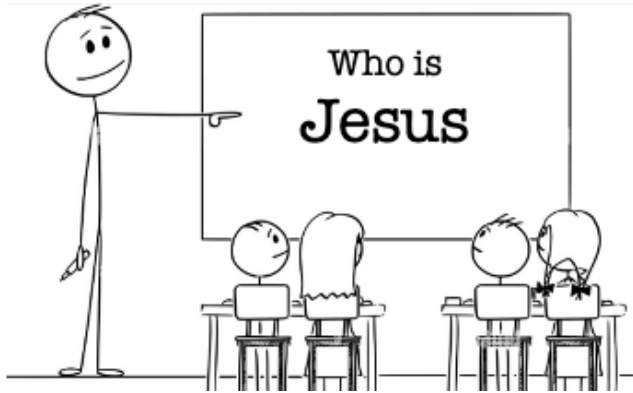
Start and Conclude with Prayer:

Include prayer, thanking God for his Word and asking for his help in applying the lessons learned

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 11 Sunday AM

Teaching a Children's Bible class



Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: :7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

I want to take this opportunity to look deeper into this scripture in Deuteronomy while Sunday morning bible class and Wednesday evening bible are part of your children's life, it should not be the only time they are taught, we read above we are always to be teaching them.

List other times we can be teaching our children... use the scripture if you must

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

I cannot express the joy I personally get from teaching children's classes, their faces light up when they hear something new, they love singing songs, and the best thing CONNECTIONS, these children connect with their teachers, they say things later on in the year like "when are you going to be my teacher again?"

Thirty-five years ago, we started teaching kids classes, and are not ready to stop.

Many, many of those kids are now grown up and as adults, they still remember you as their teacher, PRICELESS!

What kinds of encouragement do you get from teaching children's classes?

There is a huge element in learning as we prepare the classes, it's not all for the kiddos!

What do you learn as a children's bible class teacher?

We need to use the same teaching methods and caution teaching these classes too.

Know the material, the prepared lessons, or if your writing lessons, there is a huge element in "study" to teach others.

There has been a problem with our classes getting teachers to lead them, this caused one of the classes to need to be eliminated, a couple times, crowding other classrooms, and not getting to know the kids as there are many, hopefully this lesson, this week will encourage all of us to see there is a need and how you can be the answer to a problem we have been having for a while.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 11 Sunday Small Group Teaching a Children's Bible class WORKSHOP # 11

Today's workshop is looking at the material
and actually teaching a children's class

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Discover the Bible Genesis 3:1-5

1

We may eat from any tree, but we must...
wash our hands.
pray.
not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden.

You will not...
die. starve. sleep.
You will be like...
me. God. man.

2 3:6-7

tree of the
___ of
___ and

Naked! Joy!
Wise! Rotten!

△ life
○ knowledge
☆ good
□ evil

1. Read Genesis 3:1-5. With orange, highlight the correct choices in the bubbles.

2. Read Genesis 3:6-7. Draw the correct shapes in the blanks. Circle what the man and woman realized when they ate the fruit from this tree. What did they make? In the box, draw what they used to make them.

Intermediate Student

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Lesson 2, Page 1

3 3:8-19

___ Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to?
___ Where are you?
___ Who told you that you were naked?

afraid
thankful
surprised

OW!

4 3:20-21

GOD

5 3:22-24

pretty and ugly
in and out
good and evil
hot and cold

life good
and evil

Garden of Eden

3. Read Genesis 3:8-13.

Summary of 3:14-19: God said to the snake, "Because you did this, you will crawl on your belly and eat dust. You will strike the heel of the woman's son and he will crush your head." God said to the woman, "You will have pain when you give birth to children." God said to the man, "You will have to work hard to get your food. Your body is made from dust and it will die and turn back into dust."

In the blanks, number the questions God asked in the correct order. Underline how the man and woman felt when they heard God. Draw an arrow from each person to the one they blamed. In the boxes, write the correct letter to show each one's punishment.

w=woman m=man s=serpent

4. Read Genesis 3:20-21. In the blanks, write the names of the first man and woman. Draw a purple star by the one who gave the woman her name. Write a check mark ✓ by the one who made the clothes.

5. Read Genesis 3:22-24. In the bubble, circle what people now knew. Cross out the tree God would not let them eat from. Draw what was special about the sword. Sin always leads to what (Romans 6:23)? How can we have eternal life (John 3:16)? Where is the tree of life now (Revelation 2:7)?

Intermediate Student

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Lesson 2, Page 2

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY



INTERMEDIATE TEACHER GUIDE

2

Application Objective

Students will put their trust in God and obey him.

► Application verses: Genesis 3:4-6

Materials Needed

- Two bowls and a small "treasure" (for **Get Active**)
- See Quick Instructions for normal materials.

Welcome!

1. Enthusiastically welcome students and learn their names.
2. Sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (Disc 1, Track 20). Optional song: "Adam and Eve" (Disc 1, Track 1)
3. This game will get students thinking about listening to God. But if you are short on time, skip it. You can still play it at the end of the lesson.

Play "God Says," like Simon says. Have the students stand while you stand in front of them. If you say "God says 'Tap your head,'" then all the students should tap their head until you say "God says 'Stop.'" (You should do the action as well.) They should only obey you if you first say "God says..." Give them all kinds of silly commands like spinning around, hopping on one foot, sticking out their tongue etc. Sometimes you should tell them to do something

without first saying "God says..." If a student follows you, they are out of the game.

God doesn't command us to do silly things like we've been doing, but he does want us to listen to him and obey him. He knows what is best, even when it doesn't make sense to us! He wants us to trust him.

Memory Workout

1. Hold up your Bible. **The Bible is an amazing book! It helps us understand who God is and what he is doing. The Bible tells us how disobeying God messed up God's beautiful creation (something we'll learn about today) and how God is making things right through his Son Jesus.**

Have students open their Bibles. **The Bible is divided into two parts. What do we call the first part? (Old Testament) What do we call the last part? (New Testament) Which part tells how God got his people ready for Jesus? (Old Testament) Which part tells us what Jesus and his followers did and taught? (New Testament)**



Intermediate Teacher

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Lesson 2, Page 1

2. **Open your Bible to the book that tells about God creating the world. (Genesis)**
3. Have students say Genesis 1:1. Help if needed.
4. **Now let's look at a card to help us learn what is in the book of Genesis.** Review the Genesis Bible Book Summary Card.

Remember It?

Divide your group into two teams. Choose a "stepper" from each team with legs of similar length. Line up the steppers against one wall with a clear path in front of them. Also choose a speaker from each team.

After I ask your team a question, I'll give you a few seconds to quietly discuss the answer, then the speaker must tell your team's answer. If the answer is wrong, the other team gets a few seconds to answer through their speaker. If your answer is correct, your stepper can take one step forward. Their step may be as big as they want, but it must be just one step! After the last question, the team whose stepper has gone the farthest wins.

1. **What did God do to create the world?** (He spoke.)
2. **God made people in whose image?** (God's)
3. **After God made the world, including people, what did he think about everything he had made?** (very good)
4. **What two trees did God plant in the middle of the Garden of Eden?** (tree of life, tree of the knowledge of good and evil)



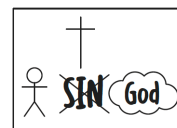
INTERMEDIATE TEACHER GUIDE

5. **God said that it was not good for man to be alone. What did God do about it?** (He created a woman.)
6. **God told Adam not to eat the fruit from what tree?** (tree of the knowledge of good and evil)

Answers: 1) Gen 1:3, 6, 9 2) Gen 1:27 3) Gen 1:31 4) Gen 2:9 5) Gen 2:18, 22 6) Gen 2:17

Guess What...

Write "SIN" on the board. **Sin is disobeying God. Sin separates us from God** (Isaiah 59:2). Draw a stick figure person on the left side of "SIN" and a cloud with "God" on the right. **All people sin** (Romans 3:23) **so we all deserve to be separated from God. That's bad news! God's Son Jesus came to take away our sin and give us life with God** (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:4-8). Draw a cross above "SIN" and cross out the word "SIN." **That's good news! The story of Adam and Eve's sin is a sad one, but it is not the end of the story!**



Today we will learn about the very first sin—the one that brought sin into this world!

Have students open their Bibles to Genesis 3 while you hand out the **Discover the Bible** page.

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Lesson 2, Page 2

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Discover the Bible **Genesis 3:1-5**

1

We may eat from any tree,
but we must...
wash our hands.
pray.
not eat from the tree in the
middle of the garden.

You will not...
die. starve. sleep.

You will be like...
me. God. man.

1. Read Genesis 3:1-5. Highlight the correct choices in the bubbles.

2 **3:6-7**

tree of the
○ of
★ and
□

△ life
○ knowledge
★ good
□ evil

Naked! Joy! Rotten!
Wise!

2. Read 3:6-7. Draw the correct shapes in the blanks. Circle what the man and woman realized when they ate the fruit from this tree. What did they make? In the box, draw what they used to make them.

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Lesson 2, Page 3

3 **3:8-19**

3 Have you eaten from the tree
I commanded you not to?

1 Where are you?

2 Who told you that you were
naked?

afraid
thankful
surprised

OW!
W
m

3. Read Genesis 3:8-13.

Summary of 3:14-19: God said to the snake, "Because you did this, you will crawl on your belly and eat dust. You will strike the heel of the woman's son and he will crush your head." God said to the woman, "You will have pain when you give birth to children." God said to the man, "You will have to work hard to get your food. Your body is made from dust and it will die and turn back into dust." (Notice how the world itself was messed up because of sin!)

In the blanks, number the questions God asked in the correct order. Underline how the man and woman felt when they heard God. Draw an arrow from each person to the one they blamed. In the boxes, write the correct letter to show each one's punishment.

w=woman m=man s=serpent

4 **3:20-21**

GOD ✓

★

Adam Eve

5 **3:22-24**

pretty and ugly
in and out
good and evil
hot and cold

life good and evil

Garden of Eden

4. Read Genesis 3:20-21. In the blanks, write the names of the first man and woman. Draw a purple star by the one who gave the woman her name. Write a check mark ✓ by the one who made the clothes.

5. Read Genesis 3:22-24. In the bubble, circle what people now knew. Cross out the tree God would not let them eat from. Draw what was special about the sword. Sin always leads to what (Romans 6:23)? How can we have eternal life (John 3:16)? Where is the tree of life now (Revelation 2:7)?

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Lesson 2, Page 4

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Wall Time Line

Give different students the following labels: serpent with "Sin" (2), tombstone with "Death" (2), birth of Jesus (1), Adam (1), and Eve (1).

The Time Line helps us understand when things happened in the Bible.

1. **On the Time Line, what does B.C. stand for?** (before Christ) **The years B.C. are the years before Jesus Christ was born.** Point to the part of the Time Line that represents the years B.C. Ask the student holding the birth of Jesus (1) label to place it on the Time Line above 0.
2. **What does A.D. stand for?** (Anno Domini, which means "in the year of the Lord") **The years A.D. are after Jesus Christ was born.**
3. **What year do you live in?** Point to this year on the Time Line. **Is this year B.C. or A.D.?** (A.D.)
4. **Who was the first man God created?** Have the student holding Adam (1) place his name below the "?" marking the beginning of time.
5. **Who was the first woman?** Have the student holding Eve (1) place her name below the "?" marking the beginning of time.
6. **What did Adam and Eve bring into the world?** Have the student holding the serpent with "Sin" (2) place it on the Time Line above the "?" marking the beginning of time.
7. **What happens to all people because of their sin?**



INTERMEDIATE TEACHER GUIDE

Have the student holding the tombstone with "Death" (2) place it on the Time Line below the serpent with "Sin" (2) label.

8. **Did God have a plan for saving us from sin? (yes) Who died to take away our sin? (Jesus) Did he stay dead? (no)** Point to the death, burial, and resurrection (1) label at 33 A.D.
9. **Genesis 3:15 is our first hint that Jesus will come and destroy Satan and all sin! Read Genesis 3:15. How did Satan strike Jesus' heel? (cross) How did Jesus crush his head? (resurrection and coming judgment)** See Isaiah 53:5, Revelation 5:9, 12:9, 20:10, and 1 John 3:8.



Wall Map 1

1. Label the Mediterranean Sea (2).
2. Locate the Tigris River (1) and the Euphrates River (1). **The Garden of Eden was in the area of these rivers** (Genesis 2:10-14). **All the events in the Bible happened in the area around the Mediterranean Sea and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.**

Get Active

Get two bowls and a small "treasure," like a bag of coins or a ring, that can be concealed by the bowls when they

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Lesson 2, Page 5

are turned upside down. Block the students' view and place the treasure under one of the bowls. Tell students they will get to choose whether or not to trust you. Show the bowls and tell students which bowl the treasure is under. See how many choose to trust you. Reveal the treasure.

Allow one or more students to do what you did and hide the treasure. See how trustworthy they are and how many students choose to trust them!

Every day, we choose whether or not we will trust God! In the Garden of Eden, did Adam and Eve choose to trust God? Can you trust God to tell you what is best? When we disobey God, we choose to sin rather than trust him. What happens when we choose to sin?

Apply It!

Find Genesis 3:4-6 in your Bible. Have a student read the verses.

Hand out half-sheets of paper.

Listen to the beginning of this story.

Tessa's parents had told her never to go into the woods behind her neighbor's house. As she and her friend walked one day, they noticed a trail going into the woods behind her neighbor's house. Her friend said, "Let's find out where that trail leads!"

Draw a couple thought bubbles on your paper and write the thoughts you think might have gone through Tessa's mind.



INTERMEDIATE TEACHER GUIDE

In the Bible story, why did Eve disobey God by eating the fruit? Who did Eve not trust? As a result, what happened?

Why does God want you to listen to him and obey him? Do you think God knows what is best? Why?



Prayer

Lead (or have a student lead) students in prayer thanking God for Jesus, who died to take away your sin and give you life with him. Ask God to help you trust him and obey him.

Example: **Father, you are such a good God and you always want what is good. Help us trust you and obey you. Thank you so much for Jesus, who died to take away our sin so we can live as your children!**

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Lesson 2, Page 6

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 11 Wednesday Night Teaching a Children's Bible class

How did the workshop go on Sunday afternoon?

Not so hard right?

Not only are the children's bible classes important to teach God's word, but wonderful relationships are formed, and continue for years,

Also, there is an opportunity to teach with songs, many of us know songs we have sung in years past, they don't go anywhere they are still in our heads, The B-I-B-L-E, Jesus loves me, and the popular song, GOD is BIGGER than the Boogie-Man

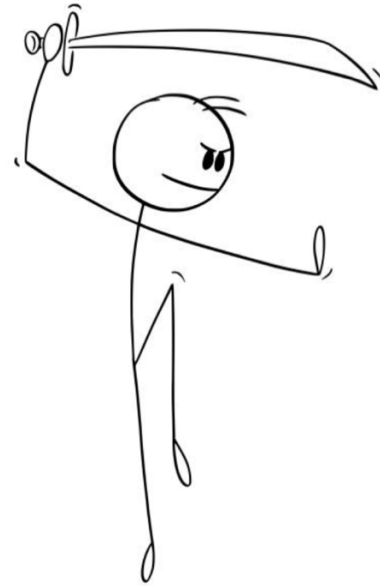
Renea has a YouTube channel she made to help teach the teachers these songs so they can be taught in the classes, kids singing these or any songs about the bible are priceless!

https://youtu.be/SnVUXD12DYM?si=oKTPb_EFpscQcwkp

or just type in Renea Schuessler in YouTube search window

This also gives us all an opportunity to practice our artistic skills while teaching Gods word, from coloring to painting rocks or slaying Goliath with a sword made with a pool noodle

What are some good things you have done to help the children remember the study?



Knowing your audience is very helpful in these classes, you will have some well-versed children, and some who don't anything you're talking about on a given subject, while it is a great idea to encourage them all to participate, let's be mindful and not get too wrapped up in the encouragement (toys, candy, bible bucks) not needed and there is an impact on those not receiving them.

Any thoughts on this?

This may be a good time for the elders, and deacons and parents to thank the labor of love displayed to our children for their selfless efforts in the teaching program.

See a problem? Be a part of the solution!

R. Fraizer

Teaching in a bible school setting offers unique joys, including witnessing spiritual growth in students, the opportunity to share faith, and the satisfaction of building relationships. Teachers also find fulfillment in seeing students grasp biblical concepts, apply them to their lives, and grow in their character.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 12 Sunday AM

Looking at the different Bible versions



Well, here's a topic, we don't find ourselves talking about much, I want us to be careful on how we look at this topic.

There are many Bible versions due to the need to translate the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts into different languages, including English, and because language evolves over time, necessitating new translations. Different translations also prioritize either a literal or a more dynamic, thought-for-thought approach, catering to various preferences.

Additionally, the discovery of older and more complete manuscripts has led to revisions and new translations.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

1. Language Barrier:

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek.

Few people today read and understand these ancient languages, requiring translation into modern languages like English.

This creates the need for different translations to make the Bible accessible to a wider audience.

2. Language Evolution:

Languages change over time, with words shifting in meaning or falling out of favor. Older translations can become difficult to understand due to outdated language. New translations are needed to keep pace with evolving language, ensuring the message remains clear to modern readers.

3. Translation Philosophy:

Different translations prioritize different approaches to translation, affecting how closely they adhere to the original text.

Formal equivalence (word-for-word): These translations aim for a very literal rendering of the original text, even if it means sacrificing readability.

Dynamic equivalence (thought-for-thought): These translations prioritize conveying the meaning of the original text in a way that is natural and easily understood in the target language, even if it means taking some liberties with the wording.

Some translations aim for a balance between accuracy and readability.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

4. Manuscript Discoveries:

Over time, older and more complete manuscripts of the Bible have been discovered.

These discoveries have led to revisions of existing translations and the creation of new ones that incorporate the latest textual evidence.

5. Denominational Differences:

Different Christian denominations may prefer certain translations based on their theological interpretations and traditions. Some denominations may even commission their own translations to reflect their specific beliefs.

These are some reasons that the bible was translated different, but that does not mean we need to agree or follow them.

What are red flags based on these definitions listed above?

(Dis)Honorable Mention: Two translations that most Christians know to avoid but should still be mentioned are the New World Translation (NWT), which was commissioned by the Jehovah's Witness and the Reader's Digest Bible, which cuts out about 55% of the Old Testament and another 25% of the New Testament (including Revelation 22:19, which says, "if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book").

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:

Lesson 12 Sunday Small Group Looking at the different Bible versions

WORKSHOP # 12

Over 3558 versions in 2308 languages

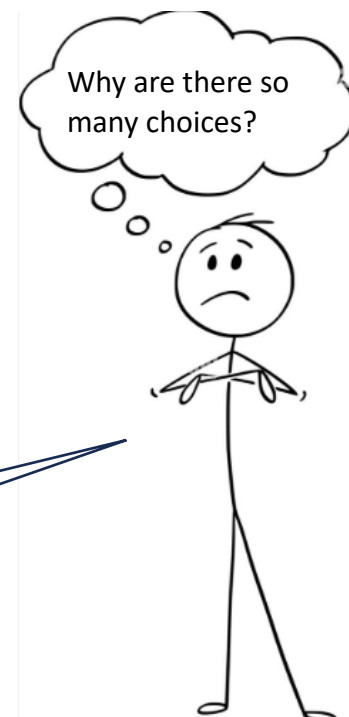
What does that tell us about the bible?

What do we trust?

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Let's take some time to look at the list of translations so we can talk about them and share thoughts on the differences.

Look at your version, did you purchase it or was it a gift? Is this suitable for your needs? Do any other versions intrigue you?



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Bible Translations

TRANSLATION	YEAR*	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
King James Version (KJV)	1611, 1769	Word-for-word	Used by adults who prefer the English found in older versions.
American Standard Version (ASV)	1901	Word-for-word	Very formal. Used for serious Bible study.
Revised Standard Version (RSV)	1952	Word-for-word	Based on the ASV.
Amplified Bible (AMP)	1965	Word-for-word, plus amplification of meaning	Uses a unique system of punctuation, typefaces, and synonyms (in parentheses) to more fully explain words.
New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)	1966, 1985	Word-for-word	Typically used by Roman Catholics for serious Bible study. Includes the Apocrypha.
New American Bible (NAB)	1970, 1986, 1991	Word-for-word	Official translation used in U.S. Catholic Church Mass. Includes the Apocrypha.
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	1971, 1995	Word-for-word	Used by adults for serious Bible study.
Good News Translation (GNT)	1976, 1992	Thought-for-thought	Used by children and believers for whom English is not their first language.
New International Version (NIV)	1978, 1984, 2011	Balance	Modern translation aimed to be acceptable to many denominations. Currently the best-selling Bible version.
New King James Version (NKJV)	1982	Word-for-word	Modern language translation to maintain the structure and beauty of the KJV.
New Century Version (NCV)	1987	Thought-for-thought	Uses footnotes to clarify ancient customs. Used by children and teenagers for personal devotional reading.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

TRANSLATION	YEAR*	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	1989	Word-for-word	Revision of the RSV using information gathered from newly discovered Hebrew and Greek manuscripts.
Contemporary English Version (CEV)	1995	Thought-for-thought	Recommended for children and people who do not speak English as their first language.
God's Word Translation (GW)	1995	Balance	Translated by a committee of biblical scholars and English reviewers to ensure accurate, natural English.
New International Reader's Version (NirV)	1996, 1998	Thought-for-thought	Simple words and short sentences to appeal to a lower reading level.
New Living Translation (NLT)	1996, 2004	Thought-for-thought	Translation style of the Living Bible (TLB). Easy-to-read modern version.
English Standard Version (ESV)	2001	Word-for-word	Derived from the RSV. Used by teenagers and adults for serious Bible study.
The Message (MSG)	2002	Paraphrase	Re-creates the common language in which the Bible was written into today's common language.
Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)	2004	Balance	Alternate translations included in footnotes. Used by teenagers and adults for personal devotions and Bible study.
Common English Bible (CEB)	2011	Balance	Diverse team of translators from 22 faith traditions in American, African, Asian, European, and Latino communities.

*Year complete Bible translation was released and later revisions

Word-for-word: Scholars translate each word based upon the word usage at the time of writing. No translation is actually "word-for-word," but the intent is to come as close as possible.

Thought-for-thought: Scholars translate the meaning of each thought.

Balance: Between a word-for-word and thought-for-thought approach.

Paraphrase: A restatement of a translation in modern vocabulary; often expanded for clarity.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 12 Wednesday Night

Looking at the different Bible versions

Okay let's look at the WARNINGS in the various versions.

What are some red flags you may notice in certain versions of the bible?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What were the three most popular translation types?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Can you share an example of a poor translation?

Dangers in different Bible translations

While various Bible translations aim to convey the sacred message, certain dangers can arise from variations and potential inaccuracies in the translation process.

Here are some key dangers to consider:

1. Misinterpretation and manipulation

Translations can be misinterpreted or even deliberately manipulated to support specific theological viewpoints or agendas, potentially twisting the original message.

For example, some translations might alter words or phrases to align with particular doctrines, potentially obscuring or even contradicting the original text's meaning.

2. Theological bias

Translators, like all individuals, can be influenced by their own theological beliefs and biases, consciously or unconsciously shaping the translation choices they make.

This can lead to differences in how certain terms are translated, potentially reinforcing specific theological interpretations over others. For instance, the Hebrew word "YHWHY" is often translated as "The Lord" due to a theological belief that the Name should not be spoken aloud.

Some translations might also demonstrate a bias towards either a literal (word-for-word) or dynamic (thought-for-thought) translation approach, potentially influencing the interpretation of certain passages, according to Scripture Analysis.

3. Personal bias

Some translations might use language that is perceived as gender-biased, potentially impacting the portrayal of women in the Bible or reinforcing traditional gender roles. (have you heard this before?)

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 13 Sunday AM

Warnings about teaching God's Word in its purity.

The Bible contains several warnings against altering its text. Two prominent examples are found in Revelation 22:18-19 and Deuteronomy 4:2. Revelation 22:18-19 specifically warns against adding to or taking away from the words of the book of Revelation, threatening divine consequences. Deuteronomy 4:2 similarly warns against diminishing or adding to God's commandments. These verses emphasize the importance of preserving God's word and the potential dangers of tampering with it, whether by adding to or subtracting from it.

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book::19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Deu 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Can you find any other verses that say the same?

If we are not careful, we too can change scriptures by not keeping the context, and misusing scriptures

Warnings about Corrupters

To keep us from accepting a counterfeit Bible, God has warned us of those who change it. The primary culprits include Satan, hardened sinners, heretics, false prophets, false teachers, and false apostles, along with their followers (ignorant as they may be). The war on the Word of God began with the devil in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:16-17

16. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The old serpent challenged this command, saying "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). Calling God a liar, he removed SOME of His Words: "Ye shall not surely die:" (Genesis 3:4). Next, Satan added his lie to the Word: "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5). The devil cannot touch the Word of God without corrupting something.

The devil is not alone in his attack on the Bible. His human agents are fast at work to change and discredit God's Word. The Bible clearly exposes the human element in perversion of the Word, from the false prophets of old to the false teachers of today. We are strongly admonished to separate ourselves from these individuals and their message. (This does not mean that we are not to seek to bring them out of their error unto repentance and the true gospel. But we are not to have fellowship with them as Christians, but unbelievers.)

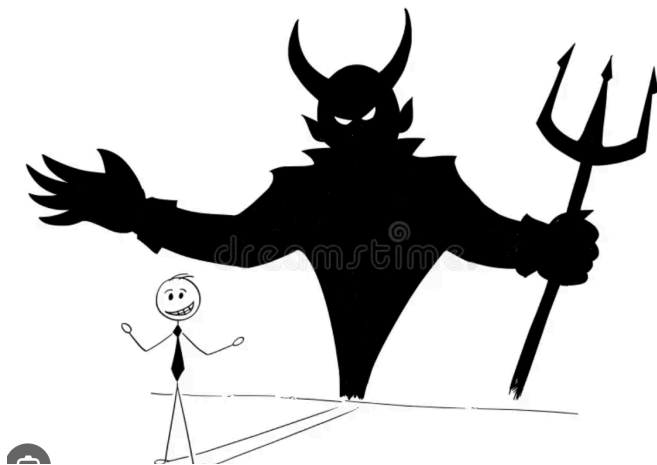
PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Romans 1:21, 25

21. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

25. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

These people, having rejected God, have “changed the truth of God into a lie.” They are hardened sinners, who love their sin, who want nothing to do with God and His salvation. They go beyond rejecting the Word of God in their own lives. They want to change the Word, that they may be justified in their sins.



Lesson 13 Sunday Small Group

Warnings about teaching God's Word in its purity.

WORKSHOP # 13

Let's look at how Christians then and today can try to change God's word

More crafty than the unsaved in their alteration of Scripture are the heretic and false prophet. Also known as false brethren, false teachers, and false apostles, these come in by stealth, professing themselves to be Christians. The heretic takes inspired Scripture, and “adjusts” it to match their own twisted teaching. The false prophet produces his own Scripture, conjuring up false dreams, false visions, and false words, and then stamps “Thus saith the Lord” on it as if it were the Word of God. The inspired apostle Paul warned of many, which “[handle] the word of God deceitfully” (2 Corinthians 4:2) and “which corrupt the word of God” (2 Corinthians 2:17). Paul reproved the Galatians for falling into “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6), a false gospel, and warned them of those who “pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Galatians 1:7). The apostle Peter gave a very blunt warning about false teachers bringing false words:

2 Peter 2:1-3

1. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

The false teachers will come bearing “feigned words,” fake words, false words, words that appear to be the Word of God, but are not. Their words are but a perversion of the inspired writings. The motive? Covetousness! They lust after wealth, they lust after fame, they lust after followers, and they are willing to make a mockery of the Word of God to satisfy their lusts. Peter continues his warning against those who use “great swelling words of vanity” (carefully crafted lies) and the “lusts of the flesh” (2 Peter 2:18) to draw followers. We are repeatedly warned because many will get caught up in the deception. “...MANY shall follow their pernicious ways...” If these would take heed to the Word of the Lord, they wouldn’t fall for the deception. We are to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 1:3). The faith was given to us ONCE; God will not send another with a new faith that contradicts the old. If any preach another faith, they need to be corrected. The Bible makes it clear, that if someone comes in bearing an unscriptural doctrine, and won’t consent to correction by wholesome words (1 Timothy 6:3), that person is to be rejected and expelled. “A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;...” (Titus 3:10).

What should we be looking for if something sounds different?

If what we hear is different, someone is teaching wrong, how do we handle it, biblically!

What example do we have in the New Testament of someone teaching wrong,

What was done about it?

How was it received?

What were the next steps done to correct the error?

How to identify and avoid false teachers:

Study Scripture diligently:

A thorough understanding of the Bible is essential for recognizing deviations from true doctrine.

Seek wise counsel:

Consult with trusted spiritual leaders and mature believers for guidance.

Test the spirits:

Evaluate teachings against the Word of God and be wary of those that contradict established biblical truths.

Be discerning:

Be cautious of teachers who focus on sensationalism, personal gain, or who attack other believers.

Pray for discernment:

Ask God for wisdom and guidance in recognizing and avoiding false teachers.

Use Humility

It is never comfortable to address something that seems wrong, the priority is to save the soul. Jesus himself warned his followers because he loved them, Be Like Jesus

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 13 Wednesday Night

Warnings about teaching God's Word in its purity.

False teachers, as depicted in the Bible, are individuals who distort or deviate from true Christian doctrine, often for personal gain or to lead others astray. They can be identified by their deceptive tactics, their denial of core Christian beliefs, and their focus on worldly desires rather than spiritual growth. The Bible provides numerous warnings and characteristics to help believers discern and avoid these false teachers.

Key characteristics of false teachers, according to the Bible:

Denial of core Christian beliefs:

They may deny Jesus' divinity, the authority of Scripture, or the need for salvation through Christ.

Deception and manipulation:

They often use clever lies and fabricated stories to exploit others and gain followers.

Focus on worldly desires:

They may prioritize personal gain, wealth, or sensual pleasures over spiritual matters.

Pride and arrogance:

They may display an inflated sense of self-importance and disregard for sound doctrine.

Division and discord:

They often cause division within churches and among believers through their teachings and actions.

Twisting Scripture:

They may misinterpret or distort biblical passages to support their own false teachings.

Lack of genuine love and compassion
Their actions often contradict the love and grace that should characterize true believers.

Hidden motives and agendas:

They may operate in secret or disguise themselves as legitimate teachers or leaders.

Biblical examples and warnings:

2 Peter 2:

This passage describes false teachers who will introduce destructive heresies, deny the Lord, and exploit others with fabricated stories.

Jude 1:4:

This verse warns about "ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ".

1 John 4:1:

This verse encourages believers to test the spirits to see if they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 7:15-20:

Jesus warns about false prophets who appear like sheep but are actually ravenous wolves and can be identified by their fruits.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15:

This passage describes false apostles who disguise themselves as servants of Christ, highlighting the need to discern true from false teachers.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

While the Bible doesn't directly say "love the Bible," it emphasizes loving God's word and living by its teachings. Several scriptures highlight the importance of valuing and applying God's word in our lives, suggesting a love for the Bible as a byproduct of this commitment.

Here are some scriptures that speak to this idea:

Psalms 119:97:

"Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." This verse demonstrates a deep affection for God's law, which is often understood to be represented by the Bible.

Psalms 119:165:

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." This verse connects loving God's law with experiencing peace and avoiding offense.

Psalms 1:2:

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night." This verse shows that finding joy and spending time in God's law is a blessing.

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." This passage emphasizes the value of Scripture for spiritual growth and equips believers for service.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." This verse highlights the importance of internalizing and applying God's word in daily life.

While these verses don't explicitly say "love the Bible," they encourage a deep engagement with and appreciation for God's word, which naturally leads to valuing and loving the Bible as its primary source.

My hope and prayer is that we all can look at the bible deeper now, and continue to grow to love these words,

ENOUGH TO FOLLOW THEM

ENOUGH TO LEARN THEM

ENOUGH TO TEACH THEM

ENOUGH TO PROTECT THEM

Thanks for a wonderful study

Jaime

