

TMS Seminary Wives
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Sharpening Our Teaching Skills—Part 1

Big picture overview—three main things!

Ezra 7:10—“For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

Ezra was a priest who taught God’s Word to the remnant of Israelites as they returned from exile in Babylon. We are in a different context than Ezra and Israelite exiles, but these three responsibilities still apply to teachers of God’s truth—in formal and informal settings.

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

*Each of these areas is huge, so it can seem overwhelming!!!

But we won’t be effective as teachers/disciplers unless we are constantly growing in all three.

I. Study the Word

2 Tim. 2:15

2 Tim. 3:16

Job 23:12

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 19

Psalms 119

Romans 12:1-2

Acts 17:11

“No one coasts into Christlikeness. Any progress in godliness requires Spirit-filled effort and purpose.”—Donald Whitney

Be a lifelong reader of the entire Word of God

Read books on how to study the Word (lots of them out there).

Learn to do your own study first—inductive study—observation, interpretation, application; word studies, historical and cultural background, web sites, Bible study tools

Then check yourself in at least three reputable commentaries

Book-a-Month Bible Study Plan (HANDOUT)

II. Live the Word

Passages that give summaries of how God wants us to live out His truth—

Matthew 22:34-40

1 John 3:23

1 John 5:3

New Testament “One Another’s” (HANDOUT)

Conclusion

Next Week: Teach the Word

New Testament “One Another” Verses

John	13:14	You ought also to wash one another's feet.
	13:34	Love one another, even as I have loved you,
	15:12	Love one another, just as I have loved you.
	15:17	This I command you, that you love one another.
Romans	12:10	Be devoted to one another. Give preference to one another.
	12:16	Be of the same mind toward one another.
	13:8	Love one another.
	14:13	Let us not judge one another.
	14:19	Pursue the things which make for peace for the building up of one another.
	15:5	Be of the same mind with one another.
	15:7	Accept one another.
1 Corinthians	15:14	Admonish one another.
	16:16	Greet one another with a holy kiss.
	11:33	When you come together to eat, wait for one another.
	12:25	Care for one another.
2 Corinthians	16:20	Greet one another with a holy kiss.
	13:12	Greet one another with a holy kiss.
Galatians	5:13	Serve one another.
	5:15	But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.
	5:26	Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.
	6:2	Bear one another's burdens.
Ephesians	4:1-2	Showing tolerance for one another in love.
	4:25	For we are members of one another.
	4:32	Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
	5:18-21	Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Be subject to one another.
Philippians	2:3	Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.
Colossians	3:9	Do not lie to one another.
	3:12-13	Bear with one another. Forgive each other.
	3:16	Teach and admonish one another.
1 Thess.	3:12	Increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people.
	4:9	For you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.
	4:18	Comfort one another.
	5:11	Encourage one another and build up one another.
	5:13	Live in peace with one another.
	5:15	See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

2 Thess.	1:3	We ought always to give thanks to God for you ...because...the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.
Hebrews	3:13	Encourage one another.
	10:23-25	Stimulate one another to love and good deeds. Encourage one another.
James	4:11	Do not speak against one another.
	5:9	Do not complain...against one another.
	5:16	Confess your sins to one another. Pray for one another.
1 Peter	1:22	Love one another.
	4:8	Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another.
	4:9	Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
	4:10	As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another.
	5:5	Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.
	5:14	Greet one another with a kiss of love.
1 John	1:7	We have fellowship with one another.
	3:11	Love one another.
	3:23	Love one another.
	4:7	Love one another.
	4:11	Love one another.
	4:12	Love one another.
2 John	5	Love one another.

*****LOVE***** ONE ANOTHER

SERVE BE DEVOTED BE KIND BE TENDER-HEARTED BUILD UP ACCEPT

GIVE PREFERENCE NOT JUDGE BEAR BURDENS SHOW TOLERANCE FORGIVE

BE OF THE SAME MIND ADMONISH GREET/WELCOME CARE FOR PRAY FOR

NOT ENVY NOT CHALLENGE IN BOASTING BE SUBJECT TO TEACH

DO NOT LIE TO CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH HUMILITY TOWARD WAIT FOR

BEAR WITH COMFORT ENCOURAGE LIVE IN PEACE NOT COMPLAIN AGAINST

SEEK AFTER WHAT IS GOOD STIMULATE TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS NOT SPEAK AGAINST

BE HOSPITABLE WITHOUT COMPLAINT CONFESS TO NOT BITE AND DEVOUR

FELLOWSHIP WITH REGARD OTHERS AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELF

Book-a-Month Bible Study Plan

If you focus on one book of the Bible for an entire month, you will be able to spend a reasonable amount of time each day and gain considerable knowledge about a book in a relatively short amount of time. The first few times that you use this method of study you may want to work on a short book, one you can easily read in its entirety without stopping. With a longer book you will likely need to divide it into sections and probably take longer than a month on it because you may not be able to read the book all the way through in your study time every day (for instance, 50 chapters in Genesis). You can make this monthly schedule as flexible as you need it to be. If it takes two days instead of one to finish some of the work, that is fine. But it is good to build in the discipline of doing at least some study each day rather than skipping days—if at all possible.

Always remember to pray before you begin to read. God is the ultimate author of every book of the Bible. He worked through the human authors as they wrote, and He continues to work through human readers as they seek to understand. Pray Psalm 119:18 for yourself—“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”

Keep a notebook or file folder with all your notes from each study of a book of the Bible.

Important Meditation for Each Day: As you read and study, choose one or two verses to meditate on for the day. You might want to write your verse(s) on a card or sheet of paper and carry it with you throughout the day so that you can read it and think about it a few times during the day. Ask God to help you understand what the author was saying in this verse and how it relates to his overall message. Think about and pray about how this verse(s) relates to your own life.

Day 1: 1) Before you even open your Bible to the book you have chosen to study, write on a blank card or sheet of paper what you already know about the book before you begin your study. You should spend only a few minutes on this. Then put the paper away in your notebook or file folder. You will not need to look at this sheet again until you have completed your entire study. 2) Before you begin to read the book that you have chosen to study, reflect on what you believe to be the main theme of the entire Bible and write it out in one sentence. Now that you have in mind the main idea of the entire Bible, you are ready to direct your attention to the book you will study in depth. 3) Try to get a quick overview of the main thoughts of the book by reading just the beginning and ending verses of each chapter and skimming through the chapters. This should take only about five minutes and will give you a general idea of what the book is about. Write down what you believe is the main topic of the book.

Day 2: Read the book all the way through without stopping and write down three or four main ideas in the book. Also, write down what type of literature it is (letter, gospel, historical narrative, poetry, prophecy, reasoned argument, wisdom literature) and what is the book’s emotional tone (warm and friendly, persuasive argument, factual history, disciplinary and confrontational, stern warning). What tone of voice would the author have used if he were delivering or reading his message in person? Write down a few phrases in the book that show emotional tone (include verse references).

Day 3: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, make a list of everything you learn about the author of the book (tells us who is involved with this book).

Day 4: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, make a list of everything you learn about the recipients/readers of the book (tells us more about who is involved with this book).

Day 5: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then choose a passage you would like to memorize. Spend some time today working on your memorization and plan to review it regularly during your days of study.

Day 6: Read the book all the way through without stopping and make a list of any repetition you see. Notice that this repetition may involve different variations of the same word (singular, plural, past, present or future tense) or synonyms or even repetition of ideas. What do these repeated words, synonyms and ideas indicate about the author's message in this book?

Day 7: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, write down any geographical names and any information about locations mentioned in the book. Draw a simple map to show where the locations are in the world and where they are in relationship to each other.

Day 8: Read the book all the way through and write down any references to when or time.

Day 9: Read the book all the way through and look for references to events or the what of the book. What is the main situation in the book? Make a few notes on this aspect of the book.

Day 10: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, make a list of all the comparisons (things that are similar) and contrasts (things that are different) that you find. Don't get into specific details, but look at the big picture of the overall message of the book. (Examples of comparison are found in Col. 2:6, Jude 12-13, Psalm 1:3-4; examples of contrast are found in Gal. 5:16-24, Eph. 2:1-10, Col. 3:5-15.)

Day 11: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, make a list of any words you do not understand. Follow these steps to try to learn more about these words: 1) How is the word or phrase used in this book? The context of the word is extremely important. What is the main idea of the passage where the word is found? How does that main idea help you understand the meaning of the word? 2) How does the author use the same word or phrase in other books he's written? 3) As you have access to biblical reference books, look up words in a concordance or a word-study book to learn more about the original Greek or Hebrew meaning of the word. 4) Determine what you believe is the accurate definition of the word, based on your study. Then try your definition in the passage you are studying and see if it makes sense and helps you understand the passage more clearly.

Day 12: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then complete your work from Day 11 if needed or work on the meaning of another word.

Day 13: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, write a brief summary of each paragraph (no more than one or two sentences) or each chapter (no more than four or five sentences), depending on the length of the book. For books longer than about six chapters, you may want to summarize chapter by chapter.

Day 14: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, take time to focus on each paragraph individually. Evaluate how each paragraph leads into the next. Does the paragraph continue to address the same topic as the last one, or does it change topics, characters, ideas or events? How does each paragraph relate to the overall message of the book?

Day 15: Read the book all the way through and continue your work from Day 14.

Day 16: Read the book all the way through and try to determine the author's flow of thought in the book. Does he answer a series of questions? Does he move from a problem to the solution, from general to specific issues or from theology to practical application? How is the material organized—biographically, geographically, chronologically, logically or thematically?

Day 17: Read the book all the way through and consider the historical background to the book. How did the original readers or hearers understand the book and its message? The following specific questions will help to give you some historical background:

1. If the book is a letter to a church, answer these questions: a) When was the church founded? Can you find any information in the book of Acts about this church? Consult a Bible dictionary if you have one or the introductory notes on this book in a study Bible. b) Who founded this church, and what was its beginning like? c) What does the book tell us about the church's strengths and weaknesses? d) What do you think it would have been like to be a member of this church? e) What was the religious climate like in their area and what did they believe before they were converted to faith in Christ? 2. If the book is a historical narrative, answer these questions: a) What was happening in Israel's (or the early church's) history before and after this book? b) What was happening in the surrounding cultures? c) How does this book relate to the overall history of God's people? 3. If the book is one of the prophets, answer these questions: a) When did this prophet minister? b) What was happening in Israel at the time? c) To whom was the prophet's teaching directed?

Day 18: Read the book all the way through and complete any unfinished work on historical background from Day 17.

Day 19: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then meditate on the whole book or on the particular passage that you have memorized. Think about the book or passage throughout the day. Share your memorized verses with at least three people. At the end of the day, write down any new insights you have gotten.

Day 20: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then complete any previous work you have not completed or spend time on something you worked on previously but wanted to think more about. Or decide what aspect of the book you want to study for yourself today.

Day 21: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then write down several of the illustrations which the author uses to make his main points. Why do you think the author chose these illustrations, and how are they effective for the author's purposes? (Examples would be Gal. 4:21-26 slave woman and free woman, Rom. 4 Abraham justified by faith.)

Day 22: Read the book all the way through. Now choose a passage that you have found difficult to understand and focus on that passage for today. Read the passage several times and meditate on it. Make a list of questions you have about the meaning of the passage. Consider the passage in its context—how is it related to the paragraphs before and after that passage? How does the passage relate to the overall theme or message of the book? Write down your conclusions and consider whether this is a reasonable interpretation of the passage. Does your interpretation conflict with any other teaching of the Bible? In at least two or three reputable commentaries, check what the commentator says about the meaning of this passage.

Day 23: Read the book all the way through, and as you read, make a list of all the commands which the writer states in the book.

Day 24: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then write a brief paragraph to state the author's main purpose or why he wrote the book. Then summarize your brief paragraph into one sentence to state the author's overall purpose in writing this particular book.

Day 25: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then think about the author's purpose for writing (Day 24) and the commands he gave to his original readers/hearers (Day 23). Consider which of those commands relates not only to the original readers but also to readers today? Make a list of those commands. (Examples of commands relating only to the original setting are 2 Kings 5:10 and Luke 19:30-31.)

Day 26: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then write down all the promises in the book. Are they universal principles that relate to all believers throughout history? Reflect on and pray about how those promises relate to you personally. Thank God for His promises to you and for how He is working in your life so that you will trust in Him and His promises.

Day 27: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Consider 2 Timothy 3:16-17—"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." Now write down anything in the book that relates to these four categories for you personally (what knowledge was new for you? how was sin rebuked in your heart and life? how were your behavior and attitudes corrected? how has the teaching of the book brought about training in righteousness in your life?). How has God encouraged you through your study? What changes need to take place in your life as a result of your study of this book? Do some of your beliefs need to change? Do you need to make some changes in your relationship with God? In your relationships with other people? What other ways has God shown you that He wants to work in your life as you grow in Him and His Word?

Day 28: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Make your study today a time of prayer about the things God has shown you about your own life through this book. After you have reflected on the personal applications and prayed about them, write out a prayer to God about how you believe He wants to work in your heart and life as a result of your study.

Day 29: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Suppose your pastor asked you to speak to a group in your church about what you have learned in your study of this book. Write an outline showing the main points you would want to communicate when you shared with others what you learned through this book in the Bible and how that has impacted your life.

Day 30: Read the book all the way through without stopping. Then take out the sheet of paper from Day 1 of your study of this book when you wrote down what you already knew about the book before you started. Read what you wrote. Are you surprised at how much you have learned in your Bible study in just 30 days? Spend time reflecting on this and thank God for all the ways you have benefited from this study. Ask Him to help you continue to be faithful in your study of His Word. If you know a hymn or praise song that expresses some of the truth of this book or something that you have learned from the book, spend time in worship before the Lord and sing the hymn or song to Him from your heart. Complete your time on this last day of your study by also praying about which book you would like to study next.