

Foundations Bible Study

“Do your best to present yourself as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of God.”

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Take a topic per week and answer the questions below it using the Bible and your personal reflections. Also, think over each topical summary statement (beside each topic) and explain in your own words what it means. Next, study the Scripture passage associated with it. Try to understand the topic in light of the passages’ context, author, audience, and present circumstances. Take the following passages and study through them 1-3 verses a day using the inductive method study sheet (included). Ask God to “open your eyes, that you may behold the wonderful things in His Word” (Psalm 119:18). At the end of each week answer the question, “How has your view of this topic changed as a result of this study? What paradigm shifted for you?”

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STUDYING THE BIBLE ~ INDUCTIVE METHOD

One of, if not, the key to developing a deeper relationship with God is to spend time studying His Word, the Bible. At times it isn’t easy to spend time in the Bible but it is a discipline which will yield much delight. Here are just a few thoughts on how to go about spending time with God in His word:

*Set aside time and go somewhere that you won’t be disturbed. Get alone!

*Spend some time praying before you read and study; ask God to remove distractions and to allow you to focus on and understand His Word. “Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from Your law” (Psalm 119:18), and ask Him to reveal His Son Jesus through the Scripture (John 5:39, 40).

*Have a notebook or journal to write thoughts down in. It is much easier to maintain a steady train of thought and remember what you are learning when you are recording your thoughts.

-Start with simple details of the verse: **OBSERVE:** (looking at the verse as whole) “WHAT?”

1. What is the main point of the verse? What is it saying? Who is the author? Who is the audience?

2. Is the verse a command, caution, covenant(promise), comparison, contrast or cause/effect or conditional?
3. Purpose: What did I observe in the verse? (What, When, Where, How, Why-explicit, Who)

-Then write some of your thoughts on the verse: INTERPRET: (breaking it down in parts) "WHY?"

1. Why is the author writing this/using these words? Use a dictionary to define foreign terms.
2. Look into things such as the content of the verse, culture for which it was written and the context in which the verse is used.
3. Cross-reference: find other verses in the Bible which give more insight or which address the same subject. Look in margins for related verses as well as in the topical list in the back of your Bible.
4. Purpose: Why was it written? (Place a "why?" in front of each observation)

-Finally write down some applications for yourself today: APPLY: (making it usable) "HOW?"

1. Translate the verse into your own words. Remember it with a catchy slogan or phrase. The key is to keep it in your mind!
2. How is this verse relevant to me? How can I be like, act more like, or believe more in line with this verse? How will it affect my interactions with others?
3. The key of Bible Study is that by learning about God we would become more like him. Make a specific application from what was learned that will affect how you live today and pray that God would be faithful to bring it about in the coming day.
4. Purpose: How will this affect the way I live today?
 - "but prove yourselves doers of the word & not merely hearers, so deceiving yourselves" (James 1:20)
 - Measurable, Attainable, Timely applications

SPECK

Sin to Avoid

Promise to Claim

Example to Follow

Command to Obey

Knowledge about God, myself and world

Observe: answers the "What" questions. "What is the author saying?"

Interpret: answers the "Why" questions. "Why is the author saying that?"

Apply: answers the "How" questions. "How will this affect the way I live today?"

GOD

What we think about God is the most important thing about us.

1. Who is God? How would you explain Him?
2. How did you arrive at this view?
3. Explain why you believe in God.

Isaiah 40:10-30

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

JESUS CHRIST

He has explained God

1. In what ways was Jesus both Human and Divine?
2. Why was it crucial for him to be both to carry out God's mission for him?
3. How would you describe Jesus' life purpose?

John 1:1-14

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

GOSPEL

We are not once saved, always saved; but once saved, always being saved.

1. What are the essential parts of the Gospel?
2. What does "Gospel" mean?
3. How is the Gospel applied to us? What does it give us?

Ephesians 2:1-10

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

SCRIPTURE

God's word is of utmost importance because it matters that it is True."

2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. Give a description of the Bible.
2. Define Biblical Inspiration, Infallibility, and Innerancy.
3. What has God's Word revealed to us primarily?

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

PRAYER

The Supreme power in the Universe beckons us, "Ask."

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. What is Prayer?
2. Why do you pray/not pray?
3. What are we to pray about?

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

COMMUNITY

Christianity is not a me, myself, and I religion, but it is corporate.

Hebrews 10:19-25

1. What is the one unifier behind Christian community?
2. Why are Christians commanded to meet together?
3. What does Community communicate about the Christian religion?

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

EVANGELISM

The consummation of our joy. It is like a joke we must tell.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1. What is Evangelism to you?
2. Why is it so hard?
3. What are the reasons behind successful Evangelism?

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

DISCIPLESHIP

The world is won one person at a time.

1 Thessalonians 2:6-12

1. What is discipleship? How is it done?
2. In what ways did Jesus model discipleship?
3. Why is it the most strategic plan for winning the world to Christ?

Observations

Interpretations

Applications

The Early Church The church looks too much like a building and not enough like a Builder.

Make a list of how the early church in the book of Acts differs from the church of today?