

# Personal Bible Study Methods

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A The Purpose of Bible Study Training

1. The Purpose of Bible Study Training is to equip believers with a multitude of tools to promote effective study of the word of God. Through applying the truths found in study, Christians will enjoy the benefits of the sanctification process that glorifies their King.

### B. Personal Bible Study Methods

1. Character Study
2. Word Study

## II. CHARACTER STUDY

### A Defining the Term

1. A character study is thorough investigation of the history, character, and works of an individual in the Bible.

### B. Benefits of the Character Study

1. In the Bible, Christians have the privilege to peer into the spiritual journey of men and women of great faith.
2. Through the character study, the strengths and weaknesses of the Biblical characters are revealing of our own personal character flaws.

### C. Character Study Workshop

#### 1. Steps to an Effective Character Study

- a. Select a Character.
  - 1) Choose a Biblical character for study.
- b. Study the Bible.
  - 1) Use an exhaustive concordance to locate all references to the individual in the Scripture.
  - 2) Inspect all the references by reading the surrounding passage to understand the individual's role in the narrative.
- c. Summarize the Individual's Life
  - 1) Write a short biography of the individual's life. Include the individual's ancestry, the significance of his/ her name, the historical time the individual lived, the individual's work or trade, any crisis or significant events, and what works God accomplished through the individual's life.
- d. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Character
  - 1) Identify the desirable and undesirable aspects of the individual's character from the Bible.
- e. Specific Application
  - 1) Analyze your own personal character by comparing to the strengths and weaknesses of the individual studied. Record the life lessons you learn through this analysis.

## III. WORD STUDY

### A. Defining the Term

1. The analysis of a word in Scripture for the purpose of understanding the full meaning and significance of the word.

### B. Benefits of the Word Study

1. By analyzing the use of a word throughout the Scriptures, a complete and full sense of God's communication through a word can be grasped. The student is able to allow the Scripture to define a word's meaning and not allow our own preconceived notions define the meaning.

### C. Word Study Workshop

#### 1. Steps to an Effective Word Study

- a. Select a Word
  - 1) Choose a word from the Bible to study.

**b. Search for References**

- 1) Look up the word in an exhaustive concordance.
- 2) Record the number or numbers the concordance assigns to the Hebrew or Greek word.
- 3) Compile a list of all Scripture references from the exhaustive concordance.
- 4) Look up and record the definitions of the numbered words in the dictionary found in the back of the exhaustive concordance.

**c. Study the Scriptures**

- 1) Inspect all Scripture references noting how the word is used.
- 2) Record observations on the use of the word.

**d. Synthesize the Observations**

- 1) Seek to draw principles through combining your observations about the use of the word.