

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

1. **Choose a time** – the same time every day that you set aside for this purpose. Psalm 5:3.
2. **Choose a quiet place** where you will not be disturbed. Matt. 6:6
3. **Be still** – spend a few minutes being quiet. Ps. 46:10, Luke 5:16
4. **Pray** – Ask the Lord to clear your mind of distracting thoughts. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to understand what you are reading and help in applying it to your life.
 - a. Teach me. Ps. 25:4, 5
 - b. Open my eyes. Ps. 119:18
5. **Read and Study** – use a literal translation, not a paraphrase or one that translates phrases
 - a. Pick a book, start at the beginning of it and read it through to the end rather than jumping around to different books every day.
 - b. Get the context
 - i. When did this happen?
 - ii. Who are the characters involved and whom is it being written to?
 - iii. What happened?
 - iv. What is the lesson for them and for me?
 - c. Write down thoughts and questions to explore later or to ask someone else.
 - d. Look for Christ in what you read. There are pictures/types of Christ throughout the Bible. He is the Word. John 1:1.
6. **Meditate**
 - a. Think about what you have read. Look up cross-references. Joshua 1:8
 - b. Pick out a verse and think about each word – look up definitions or the Greek/Hebrew to get a fuller meaning. Compare different translations. Ps. 1:2
 - c. Write down a verse and put it in your pocket and look at it throughout the day. 1 Timothy 4:15
7. **How often?**
 - a. Read every day, even if it is only one chapter or part of a chapter. Isaiah 50:4
 - b. Try to start and end your day with something from God's Word. Ps. 63:6
 - c. If possible, read aloud to get your eyes, ears, and mouth involved.
 - d. Listen to the Bible on your computer, Ipod, or phone – there are many Bible audio apps.
8. **Attitude**
 - a. Have a humble attitude and be willing to obey what you read. Is. 66:2, John 7:17, James 1:22
 - b. Realize that everything we learn from God's Word is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. We don't learn it through our own intellect. 1 Cor. 2:9,10
9. **Study Helps**
 - a. Regular Concordance and Strong's Concordance
 - b. Vine's Expository Dictionary
 - c. Morrish Concise Bible Dictionary
 - d. Commentaries
10. **Helpful Tools**
 - a. Daily Bible Reader – read one or more chapters every day and find the phrase
 - b. The One Year Bible – read the Bible in a year
 - c. Believer's Bible Commentary – William MacDonald's commentary of entire Bible
 - d. biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org - online Bibles, many translations
 - e. trotbrook.org – Document Library – Dig Deeper –commentary by Ron Canner
 - f. christianlibrary.info – online hymns, articles from Christian periodicals
 - g. stempublishing.com, mwtb.org – online Bible dictionary, online writings, order books