

Simply Study

For many Christians finding the time for personal Bible study is near impossible. Other Christians seem to have all the time in the world, but aren't sure where to start. This is a short list of a few simple actions we can do to make our Bible study more fulfilling.



Where in the Bible do we read "It is more blessed to give than to receive"?

None of these steps are complicated, and all of them will aid you in growing in God's word. Ready? Happy reading...

1) Start Small: The biggest decision every Bible student makes is "where do I start studying?" Some take the "Daily Bible Reading" approach and start their study in Genesis. Most people I've talked to who do this either burn out at the genealogies or push through only to quit by the time they hit Leviticus. Let me suggest starting a bit smaller. Instead of Genesis, start with a Gospel (say, Mark). Yes, I know you've already heard the Gospels many times, but, if you're really committed to diligent study, I promise you'll learn something new. Start with a book that you're familiar with and start studying little sections at a time adding more and more as you become more confident studying.

2) Read, Read, and Read: Before you start doing anything with a passage you need to read it, and read it again, and read it again, and read it again, and...you get the picture. Understand that reading a passage does not equal studying a passage, but reading is an essential part to study. As you read the passage over and over you'll find different words "pop out" to you. Try reading the passage with an emphasis on different words within the sentence as well - this may open up new paths for your study.

3) Ask Questions: When reading through the text; ask the standard, "who, what, when, where, why, how" questions. It's also good practice to keep a notepad next to you to write down any textual questions you might have (Example: "Why did Paul go here?" "Why is this event in this gospel and not the others?" "Who is speaking?" "Where are the people I'm reading about?" "How might this apply today?"). The more you question, the more you'll learn.

4) Look for Recurring Words and Themes: When reading the text, be on the lookout for, and write down, words and themes that "pop up" over and over again. For example, when reading through Romans chapter 8 you'll see words like "sin," "death," "flesh," "law," and "life" repeated over and over again. You'll also find the theme of "the Spirit" over and over again in this particular chapter. Write these things down and keep a record of how many appearances they make within your section, the chapter, and the book. Let the text tell you about itself.

5) Study First, Then Apply: Application is an essential part to studying our Bibles. Without application our Bible study is fruitless. That being said, if we fail to study the text before applying, then our application will be worthless because it will be based on an incomplete knowledge of the text. Be sure to apply the passage to yourself, but do so only after you've devoted ample time to studying it in depth.

6) Save the Commentaries for Later: If you have a library of any kind at your home it's probably made up commentaries. It can be very tempting when studying a difficult passage to seek out those commentaries and see what they have to say. Please DON'T do that! When you encounter a difficult passage... keep reading! Spend weeks on it if you have to, but don't take the easy way out by opening up a commentary and seeing what brother "so-and-so" had to say on a particular subject. Are commentaries a good resource to have? Yes, but go to them only *after* you've formed your own conclusion. The commentary is meant to be used as a guide not as a tool that does the studying for you.

The next time you study your Bible, try following these six simple steps. Regardless of whether you have hours to study or just a few minutes each day, these actions will help you grow in God's word and make your Bible study more fulfilling. We are the body of Christ in the world today.

Study to seek and save the lost!

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Birthday/Anniversary Lunch: 2nd Sunday...

NMCCH: Spray & Wash and Bar Bath Soap (pick up **April 6, 2019**)

Men's Bible Study: Begins this Wednesday (1/9) at 10AM

Friday Bible Study: (1/11) at 7PM. Romans chapters 1 through 6

Ladies Bible Class: resumes Wednesday 1/16/2019 at 10AM

Building Relationships Seminar: at Howe, **January 11-13, 2019** (more INFO on bulletin board)