

How to Study the Bible for All It's Worth

Bible Study By The Book

Session 4

This session is the second stage of **Inductive Bible Study, Interpretation**. During the Interpretation stage we'll wrestle with the text using various hermeneutical (Bible Study) principles until we have discerned its meaning. Here, among other things, we're examining;

- Literary Style - Narrative, Poetry, Proverbs, Parables, Letters, Prophecy
- Historical Context
- Word Meaning and Context - the usage of the word here and elsewhere in Scripture
- Morphology - the form of the word
- Sentence Structure

At this point it's helpful to touch on various truths and principles that I'll either state or imply.

- **Inspiration** is the act of God's moving upon human authors causing them to record His intended words while at the same time not violate their personalities or gifts.
- **Plenary verbal inspiration** means that all of the Bible is inspired (2 Tim. 3:16) and the very words, not just ideas, of Scripture are inspired (Matt. 22:32)
- **Revelation** refers to God's initial giving of Scripture to the original authors (Gal. 1:12) or the act of "pull back our veils" enabling us to understand Scripture (Eph. 1:17)
- **Illumination** is spiritual light of the Holy Spirit given to understand the Bible (Eph. 1:18)
- **Hermeneutics** is the set of historical, grammatical, and literary, principles used to discern the meaning of a biblical passage.
- **Homiletics** is the science and art by which the meaning of a biblical passage is crafted into a sermon and verbally communicated.
- **Exegesis** is the application of sound hermeneutical principles to a biblical passage in order to discern the author's original intended meaning.
- **Exposition** or **expository preaching** is the communication of the meaning of a biblical passage, discerned through sound exegesis, along with contemporary application.
- **Inductive Bible Study** is analyzing the various parts of a biblical passage (words, paragraphs, context, etc) to discern what the whole passage means.
- **Historical - grammatical - literary principle** states the meaning of a biblical passage must be discerned in the light of its historical, grammatical, and literary contexts.

Study for Bible Knowledge

There are many valuable methods of Bible study. One may study the Bible, as it were with a telescope, to see the great truths which stand out in every book. Or one may study the Bible with a microscope to find all of the marvelous details which are in this mine of spiritual riches. In this section there are several proven methods by which a person may do more intensive Bible study. The most important thing is to follow faithfully some systematic method of Bible study.

1. **Bible study by Chapters.** In the Bible there are 1,189 chapters in the Old and New Testaments. In a little over three years a person could make an intensive study of the whole Bible, just taking a chapter a day. It is usually a good practice to start your Bible study in the New Testament.
2. **Bible study by Paragraphs.** A paragraph is a unit of thought in writing, usually containing several sentences. When an author changes his subject of emphasis in his writing he usually begins a new paragraph.
3. **Bible study by Verses.** In studying the historical passages of the Bible, such as much of the Old Testament or parts of the Gospels, each verse may have only one simple meaning.
4. **Bible study by Books.** After you have begun to study the Bible by chapters or paragraphs or verses, you will be ready to study the Bible by Books. There are several methods of Bible book study. One is called the inductive method. Another method is called the synthetic method. In some cases the study of a Bible book becomes a historical study, if that book relates the history of a nation or a man in a particular period of time.
5. **Bible study by Words.**
6. **Bible study by Topics.**
7. **Bible study by Biography.**
8. **Conclusion.** There are many other methods of studying the Bible; the psychological method, the sociological method, the cultural method, the philosophical method, etc. However, the methods given above largely include all these other methods.

The great thrill of Bible study is discovering these eternal truths of God's Word for yourself and embarking on the adventure of obeying them and experiencing the blessing in your personal life.

Intermediate Bible Study Tools

1. Concordance to the Old & New Testament for your translation.
2. Bible Commentary of the Old and New Testament. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary)
3. Topical Concordance

Advanced Bible Study Tools

1. The Dictionary of New Testament Theology (2 Vol.)
2. The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (2 Vol.)
3. The Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible (5 Vol.)
4. The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance
5. The Englishman's Greek Concordance and Lexicon
6. A Systematic Theology Book (Foundations of the Christian Faith / Boice)