

# How to Study the Bible

2)What is happening before and after the passage you are studying. This will help you in being careful not to pull a verse out of context.

3)Resources such as notes in Study Bibles, concordances, Bible Dictionaries, Matthew Henry Commentary, and Bible Handbooks offer you helpful information to aid in your understanding of Scripture.

3)Apply: How does this Passage affect your life?

1)Is there an example for me to follow?

2)Is there a sin to avoid?

3)Is there a promise to claim?

4)Is there a prayer to repeat?

5)Is there a command to obey?

6)Is there a condition to meet?

7)Is there a verse to memorize?

8)Is there an error to mark?

9)Is there a challenge to face?

4)Pray. Pray asking for God to help you apply what you have just learned or to continue to show you what the passage means.

5)Enact: Now What? Put into practice what God has spoken to you in the passage.

Study section taken: Howard Hendricks and William Hendricks. *Living by the Book* (Chicago: Moody, 1991). 304-307.

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### *Why Study the Bible?*

- 1) The Bible contains God's mind and will for your life.
- 2) It is the only source of absolute divine truth for you as a Christian.
- 3) The Bible helps you grow in your relationship with Jesus.
- 4) The Bible gives you guidance for life in both the good days and the bad days.
- 5) The Bible is a source of comfort and strength for your daily life.
- 6) The Bible is both practical and relevant for your life.
- 7) The Bible is the source of God's blessing in your life when you obey His words.
- 8) The Bible is your source of victory over obstacles in life.

### *Helpful Hints*

- 1) Start slowly and build up. The Christian life is a marathon not a sprint.

Simple outline:

Day 1–7– Pray and study for 10 minutes a day.

Day 8–14– Pray and study for 15 minutes a day.

Day 15–21– Pray and study for 20 minutes a day.

Build-up to a point that you feel comfortable.

- 2) Select a specific and consistent time for your study each day. In other words, set an appointment with God. Some common times to set aside include: first thing in the morning, lunch time, before dinner, after dinner, before bed.
- 3) When you are studying your Bible go to a place that doesn't have many distractions. Even Jesus got away from all the distractions in life to pray.
- 4) As you begin, understanding may be difficult, but keep it up. It may be helpful to keep a pad and write down your questions or passages you have questions about so you can ask someone.
- 5) During your study expect for God to teach you something from His word.
- 6) As you study your Bible don't hesitate to write, underline, and circle in your Bible significant thoughts or verses.
- 7) Start with a Gospel like John. Progress to a book like 1 John, James, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, or 1 and 2 Corinthians. As you grow in knowledge and confidence read an Old Testament book like Genesis, Joshua, or Jonah. You can also read through tough New Testament books like Romans or Hebrews.

### The Process

- 1) Get to a place that has little to no distractions
- 2) Pray
  - 1) A– Adoration. Tell God how awesome He is in your life.
  - 2) C– Confess. Confess to God your sins.
  - 3) T– Thanksgiving. Thank God for all the blessings and answered prayer in your life.
  - 4) S– Supplication. A time to ask for God's provision and any prayer request.
  - 5) Pray also that God would help you to understand the message He has for you in His word.
- 3) Study
  - 1) Read: Observe what the passage says. After reading the passage could you tell someone else what is happening in the passage?
  - 2) Interpret: What does the passage mean.
    - 1) Don't draw conclusions at the expense of proper interpretation.