

MAKING A DAILY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

WHY READ THE BIBLE?

John 17:17 | Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16 | All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

WHERE DO I START?

- Make a **commitment** to read your Bible cover to cover!
- It takes **20 minutes** a day to read through the whole Bible!
- The **One Year Bible** is a great resource
- PVC's primary method: **S.O.A.P.**

GETTING READY

Get the right tools

- A good Bible **translation** (*More about translations later*):
Which **Bible** should I use? **THE ONE YOU WILL READ!**
- A good reading **plan**
- A **journal**
- A **pen or pencil**
- A **highlighter** (if desired)

Set the right environment

- Set a good **time**
- Set up a **place**
- Share it **with others**

HOW TO SOAP

Scripture: What does God want me to **see and hear** from Him in my reading today?

- Allow the **Holy Spirit** to lead you to a particular verse/passage that day.
- Write it out word for word.



- Ex. **Psalm 5:1-2** Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my groanings. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

Observation: Answers the question, "What does this **passage** say?"

- **Write** out a couple of sentences highlighting what you see.
- You can also make note of words, phrases, or other things that you discover in the passage, or in your reading from the day.
- Do your "Homework" and look up the words, phrases, ideas, or concepts you don't understand, and make notes here. Make notes about people or places too.
- **Ex.** David is talking to God in prayer. He is calling for God's attention and protection from enemies. He shows his love for God by affectionately calling Him "my King" and "my God."

Application: What can I do today to **apply** and **obey** this passage?

- Write out some **actions** that you can take **today** to obey God.
- Write out **changes** to make, or other **applications** God is leading you to.
- **Ex.** I love David's intimacy with God. "My God" shows a close sincere relationship. "My King" shows a humility and submission to his Lord. I want to always remember that my relationship with God is just that: a relationship of love and submission to the King of the universe.

Pray: **Thank** God for helping you love Him and others more today.

- Ask God to **empower you** to **obey** what you have learned.
- Ask God to help you **apply** or **do** what He showed you in the passage.
- **Ex.** Father, thank you for your grace that makes it possible to know, love, and honor You! Help me to be positive in every situation instead of the negative, and to encourage people involved. Remind me always that you are near.
Amen

HOW TO OBSERVE AND INTERPRET THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 2:15 | Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.



- Get the **whole** picture
- Understand the **Story of Redemption**
- Getting an **overview** of the Bible is like having the box top of a 1000-piece puzzle. When you know the whole picture the pieces make more sense to you because you see where they fit in.
- The Bible is **one** story from cover to cover: God's relationship with man. It covers the creation of man, his fall, and God's determined **plan** to save mankind.

BASIC BIBLICAL FACTS:

- **39** books in the O.T.
 - **17** Historical Books
 - **5** Poetical Books
 - **17** Prophetical Books
 - **27** books in the N. T.
 - **5** Historical Books
 - **13** Pauline Epistles
 - **9** General Epistles
 - **66** books in the whole Bible
- The Old Testament is the **story** of God and the Hebrew people, their poets, and prophets.
 - The New Testament is the **story** of Jesus of Nazareth, the Church He founded, and its growth under the leadership of His apostles after His return to heaven.

TYPES OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

- **Narrative:** Read these as literal **stories** about what God did to and through people in particular eras.
- **Epistles:** Read these as ordinary **letters** written to first century Christians to deal with specific concerns and needs.
- **Wisdom:** Read these as **practical** wisdom and skill for living a God-honoring life.
- **Poetry:** Read these as deep, **personal** expressions of faith intended to inspire and instruct us.
- **Prophetic/Apocalyptic:** Specific **messages** to particular audiences meant to highlight God's justice, judgment, love, and mercy.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS (3 TYPES)

- **Literal** – Word for Word - Accurate, but a bit clunky to read. KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV fall into this category.
- **Dynamic Equivalent** – Thought for Thought - Captures primary accuracy if not always the exact words, but brings the language into the current language so it is easier to read. The NLT, NIV fall into this category.
- **Paraphrase** - Story - Focuses on the "Big Idea" of the passage and attempts to put it into a modern context, focusing on making it applicable and easy to read. The Message, LB fall into this category.

STUDY TOOLS:

- Prayer (Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance)
- Your Mind (God can call to mind what you have already studied)
- Dictionary (Both a Bible dictionary and a regular dictionary)
- Handbook (Like encyclopedias)
- Bible Types (Various study and resource Bibles are available)
- Commentaries (Scholars who have studied a book of the Bible)
- Word Study Tools (To look at the original languages)
- Historical/Cultural Books (What the first hearers would have understood)
- Other

ASK THE GOOD QUESTIONS

WHO? (the characters)

- The writer
- The recipient
- The characters involved in the action
- The characters indirectly involved in the action
- Special people addressed in the passage

WHAT? (the key truths or events)

- Key Ideas
- Theological Terms
- Key Events
- Important words (tense, commands)
- Figures of speech
- Atmosphere

WHEN? (the time factors)

- Date of author's writing
- Duration of the action
- At what point in the life of Israel
- At what point in the life of the Church
- Past, Present, or Future

WHERE? (the geography and location)

- Places mentioned
- Buildings
- Cities
- Nations
- Landmarks

Why? (the purpose of the passage or book)

- The reader's need
- The writer's message/solution to the need

Write out your conclusion

- Answer the question: "What does this mean?"
- Taking into account all of your observations, summarize what you understand to be the intended meaning of the passage.
- Just use plain words.

Sound interpretation always takes into account the whole teaching of Scripture!

(Biblical and Systematic Theology)

COMPARE SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE

- Use the cross-references in your Bible if you have them.
- Look at different translations to get a full range of meaning.
- Use a Topical Bible to look more scripture (in context).

CONSULT OTHER RESOURCES

- This is the last step!
- Read the study notes in your study Bible.
- Use a good Bible commentary



"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" - Matthew 4:4

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." – 2 Timothy. 2:15

DETERMINE TO MASTER THE BIBLE

- Equipping U Classes that strengthen Bible study:
 - Understanding the Bible
 - Understanding Systematic Theology