

# Growing in God's Word

## Lesson 8: Possible Implementations of Bible Study Principles

### I. A Method of Personal Bible Study

- A. The Right Time  
A Time Set Apart
- B. The Right Place  
Away from distractions
- C. An Expectant Spirit
  - 1. Physically alert
  - 2. Moral Factors
- D. What to Do
  - 1. Get Bible and Notebook
  - 2. Stop: Wait  
Remind yourself that Jesus Christ is in the room and that Bible Study is the most important time of the day
  - 3. Reading: Look
    - i. Read a Paragraph
    - ii. Read through the passage three times
      - a. 1st time for general flow (Observation)
      - b. 2nd time for what is being taught (Interpretation)
      - c. 3rd time for what is said personally (Application)
  - 4. Meditate: Listen
    - i. Actively think on the Word of God
    - ii. Look at the passage and think of ramifications and applications. *Don't Rush*
    - iii. Ask questions about the passage.  
Is there a commandment to obey? A promise to claim? A sin to avoid? A sin to confess? An example to follow? A timeless principle? A truth to believe? What do I learn about God? Christ? the Holy Spirit? me?
  - 5. Apply  
Actively think through what you can do to make what you have learned a practical part of your life.
  - 6. Pray  
Tell God what you are really thinking, feeling, or needing.
  - 7. Record
    - i. Write date and passage you studied
    - ii. Write what God showed you
    - iii. Write where you're at  
Reason. It helps fix things in your mind and appraises your spiritual progress
  - 8. Share  
Get with someone every day and tell them what you learned
  - 9. Obey
    - i. Make an effort to obey what God has told you.
    - ii. Ask God to help you.
- E. Special Notes
  - 1. Don't evaluate the program on one morning's experience
  - 2. Do it even if you don't feel like it. (Satan causes Bible study to be difficult)
  - 3. Try not to let this become a ritual. Think about communication with God

## 2. Devotional Method of Bible Study

Definition: The devotional method of Bible study involves taking a passage of the Bible, large or small, and prayerfully meditating on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply its truth to your own life in a way that is personal, practical, possible, and measurable.

Steps in a good devotional method

1. Prayer.

2. Meditation.

a) Probe it.

There are nine good questions to ask during meditation:

S: Is there a Sin to confess?

P: Is there a Promise to claim?

A: Is there an Attitude to change?

C: Is there a Command to obey?

E: Is there an Example to follow?

P: Is there a Prayer to pray?

E: Is there an Error to avoid?

T: Is there a Truth to believe?

S: Is there Something to thank God for?

b) Picture it.

c) Pronounce it.

d) Paraphrase it.

e) Personalize it.

f) Pray it back to God.

3. Application.

There are four keys to a good application.

a) It should be personal.

b) It should be practical.

c) It should be possible.

d) It should be provable.

4. Memorization

## 3. Biographical Method of Bible Study

The biographical method consists of studying the characters of the Bible. The goal is to determine what made an individual's spiritual life a success or failure. We become acquainted with an individual's life to examine our own life in light of the study and ask God to help us make positive character changes in our weak areas.

1) Select a person to study.

2) Make a list of scripture references dealing with the person.

Use study Bible, concordance, topical Bible, Bible dictionary or Bible encyclopedia.

3) Read all the verses in the Bible on this person. Write down your first impressions.

4) Read the verses again. Make a chronological outline of the person's life.

5) Read through the verses again. Look for insights into the person's life. Ask questions about the person's life. (Some questions might include: *What was his reputation? What did others say about him? What did God say about him? What was his character like? How did he respond to failure or success? How did he interact with God? What does his name mean? What was his temperament? What were his strengths? Did his character change? What were his greatest sins? What were his battles? Did he ever get success over failures? How big was his faith? What was his prayer life like? Where did he live? What was his occupation? Did he have a crisis in life? How did he handle crises? Did he have success in life? How did he get along with others? How did he treat others?*)

6) Read it again. What character qualities do you see in that person's life?

7) Show how other Bible truths are illustrated in this person's life.

The Old Testament is a book of illustration. The New Testament is a book of instruction.

8) Summarize the person's life.

9) Write out an application.

▪ Did I see any of myself in this character?

▪ What impressed me the most about this person?

▪ What do I intend to do about it?

10) (Optional) Make your study transferable. Condense your study into just a few sentences.

#### 4. Chapter Summary Method of Bible Study

Definition: The chapter summary method involves gaining a general understanding of the contents of a chapter of the Bible by reading it through three to five times or more, asking a series of content questions, and summarizing the central thoughts of the passage.

How to read a chapter:

1. Read it at least three to five times
2. Read it without stopping
3. Read it in several different translations
4. Read it aloud

11 things to look for and do while studying the chapter:

1. Look for a short caption
2. Write the contents of the chapter
  - a) Describe it
  - b) Outline it
  - c) Summarize it
  - d) Paraphrase it
3. Who are the main characters in the chapter
4. Look for a choice verse (a summary verse or meaningful verse)
5. Write down a crucial word or words
6. Write down challenges or difficulties in understanding
7. Use cross references to answer questions
8. How does this chapter fit into the big picture of God's nature and his dealing with humans?
9. Record the central lesson, theme or central truth
10. Draw a Conclusion about the message of the chapter
11. Determine an application based on the central message of the chapter
12. Optional: Fit the chapter theme into an outline of the entire book

Some Ways to Outline Chapters in a Whole Book.

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##### Starts the Same

Decree of Cyrus: Return  
Departure of Zerubbabel, Exiles  
Delight in Temple Foundation  
Disturbance from Samaritan Enemies  
Devoted Prophets Encourage People  
Dedication of Finished Temple  
Declaration of Artaxerses Return  
Divine Protection Sought; Journey  
Distress of Ezra; Prayer  
Divorcing of Heathen Wives

##### Sounds the Same

Proclamation of Cyrus: Return  
Registration of First Returnees  
Foundation of the Temple Laid  
Opposition of Samaritans' Letter  
Supplication of exiles to Darius  
Dedication of God's Temple  
Declaration of Araxerses: Return  
Preparation of Ezra, People  
Intercession of Grieved Ezra  
Renunciation of Foreign Wives

##### Spells Something

**T**emple Proclamation of Cyrus  
**E**xiles Return under Zerubbabel  
**M**asons Lay Temple Foundation  
**P**ostponement by Samaritan Opposition  
**L**etter to King Darius  
**E**xiles Finish, Dedicate Temple  
**W**ork of Ezra's Return  
**O**fferings of Exiles  
**R**ebellion of People  
**K**eeping of Foreign Wives

## **5. Bible Study on a Specific Topic or Subject**

Tools to Use:

- a) Concordance
  - b) Topical Bible (Thompson Chain Reference Bible, Knave's Topical Bible)
  - c) Bible Dictionary
- 1) Compile a list of words that relate to topic.
  - 2) Collect references for all the verses that relate to that topic. Use a concordance and a topical Bible to collect the references.
  - 3) Consider each reference.
    - a) Look up each reference and write what it says about the topic.
    - b) Read through the passages several times.
    - c) Categorize references that have similar themes.
    - d) Answer questions about the topic.
    - e) Summarize teachings on topic.
    - f) Optional: Compare what you have learned with a good Bible dictionary
  - 4) Conclude with application.

## **6. Short Thematic Bible Study**

- 1) Chose a theme you're interested in.
- 2) Write down questions about that theme before you look at the Bible. (For thematic study, write a maximum of five questions.)
- 3) Look in a concordance and write down all verses using words that relate to your theme.
- 4) Read each verse a few times and write the answers to the questions. (Questions may be revised).
- 5) Conclude with application.