

How to Study the Bible

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Studying God's Word is digging deep into the Bible and discovering how it applies to your life. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). When you study the Bible, take it just a few verses at a time. For each of those verses, ask yourself these three questions - (1) what does this verse say; (2) what does it mean; and (3) how does it apply to my life?

Start:

Choose a specific time that you want to spend studying the Word of God and then keep that time as if it is an important appointment! Find a quiet place where you can be alone with God. Grab a notebook or journal - something you can keep your notes in so that you can refer to them in the future.

Begin with prayer:

Pray each time you begin your study. Pray for God to open up His Word to your heart. Pray that God speaks to you in a way that you clearly understand. Pray that you will be bold enough to apply the Bible's principles to your life.

Dig deep:

Read the passage through completely. Reading it out loud helps you to hear things that you might not see if you read it quietly. Copy the verse or passage into your notes, exactly as it is written in the Bible.

Look at this example for John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Pray, then ask, "what does the verse say?"

Write out the verse or verses in more simple language. Example: *God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Pray, then ask, "what does the verse mean?"

Write out the meaning of the verse or verses. Example: *God loved the world so much that He gave us His Son, so that by believing on Him we will have life in Heaven forever.*

Pray, then ask, "how does the verse apply to my life?"

Write out what you believe the verse or verses means for your life today. Example: *God gave His Son for me. By accepting this gift of salvation, I have eternal life in Heaven.*

Summarize

Read the passage through completely again. Write out a summary of what you learned today and how it applies to your life.

Pray

Pray that God would grow these truths in your heart.