

"Study Scripture"

Overview



The study of a particular subject can be incredibly dry and boring. Aside from the challenge of understanding what we are reading, subjects that are mostly about information can be pretty dry (especially if it's info we know we will never use).

For many of us, interest picks up when the object of our study relates to real life. Historical accounts, biography, and current issues are a few of the things that often hold our attention more because of their potential application to our reality.

What may be the most intriguing, however, is material we know is written specifically for us. This lesson reviews the importance of studying the Bible, a book that can be incredibly compelling when we realize God uses Scripture to reveal Himself to us for the express purpose of changing us for His glory.

Getting Started



1. What subject or person do you enjoy studying or learning about? What is it about that subject or person that you find interesting?
 2. Where did you attend school? Did you have a favourite teacher? How about a least favourite one? Explain.
 3. What learning style works best for you - classroom, self-study, reading, audio-visual, hands-on application, group learning, etc.?
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The Text



³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31–32 (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV)

The Audio (optional)



"Study Scripture" - by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 27/19

NOTES: _____

Understanding



1. What does "holding" to Jesus' teaching involve (John 8:31)? Why do you think it is necessary to do this to be a disciple of Christ?
2. How does the truth that Jesus brings set us "free" (John 8:32, see also vs. 33-47)? What are the kinds of things that keep people in bondage?
3. What is the context to which Paul is writing his second letter to Timothy (see 2 Timothy 3:10-15)? What is happening in the lives of believers? How will his teaching in verse 16 speak to their situation?
4. According to this passage in 2 Timothy 3, is there anything else (besides his own personal study of Scripture) that contributed to Timothy's spiritual understanding and walk? What implication(s) does this have for our own pursuit of spiritual growth?
5. What are the 4 specific functions of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16)? For each function, give an example of a life situation in which Scripture could be used to perform that function. What is the overall end result that Scripture seeks to achieve in our lives?
6. In Hebrews 4:12 God's Word is described as a living thing. How does it demonstrate this life (see also 1 Peter 1:23)? Why does the writer of Hebrews describe the Word in this way? What is he warning against (review the context of his words by reading verses 6-16 (and see Heb. 10:26-31))

Applying



1. How has God's truth set you free? Is there anything in your life right now that you feel you need to be set free from?
2. What is God using His Word to accomplish in your life right now (consider the 4 functions listed in 2 Timothy 3:16)? What have you learned from your study of God's Word in the past month (be specific)? How have you applied that knowledge in your life (again - be specific)?
3. Do you see any way in which believers are under attack in our current context? What in the Word of God do we need to remember or learn from in order to face that attack?
4. Do you think you have been "thoroughly equipped for every good work"? If not, how can that be corrected?
5. What is your plan for the ongoing study of God's Word? How will you ensure your study will be profitable for your spiritual growth and walk? (Consider also your answer to question #4 in the previous section). Which of the following steps will you work on?

Step 1: Choose a Book to Study.

Step 2: Understand the Context to Understand the Content.

Step 3. Approach Scripture with a System

a). The S.O.A.P. Method

Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

b). Inductive Bible Study

1) Background

2) Paraphrase

3) Question and Answer

4) Cross References

5) Insights

6) Personal application

7) Title and summarize

Step 4: Ask Good Questions

1) What do I learn about God?

2) Where is Jesus?

3) What do I learn about myself or people in general?

4) What do I learn about my relationship to God and others?

5) What does God want me to understand/think?

6) What does God want me to believe?

7) What does God want me to do?

Memory Verse(s)



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Extra Resources



- ❖ *"Study Scripture"* by Pastor Kyle Corbin ("Immanuel Church" website, Oct. 27, 2019). Pastor Kyle outlines the necessity of studying God's Word and the "how-to" of making this study a regular discipline in our lives.
- ❖ *"How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth"* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart (Zondervan Academic, 2014). This excellent resource uses simple language to help the reader properly interpret the Bible.
- ❖ *"Know Your Bible"* by Paul Kent (Barbour Publishing, 2008) This concise guide to God's Word provides a helpful and memorable overview of all 66 books of the Bible.
- ❖ *"The Bible Project"* (website at <https://thebibleproject.com>). The Bible Project is a non-profit animation studio that produces short-form, fully animated videos to make the biblical story accessible to everyone, everywhere. The website provides access to over 130 videos and 200 podcasts.