

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

Proverbs 2:1-6 “My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training** in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”

John 5:39 Jesus says “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me”

2 Timothy 3:1-7 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ***always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.***”

John 14:6 **Jesus said** to him, “**I am** the way, and **the truth**, and the life...”

READ GOD’S WORD... (pray first)

1. Word study – look up a word in the dictionary/thesaurus, find the root meaning of the word
2. Read that passage in other versions (Amplified Bible)
3. Look at cross references listed in the bible and look those up
4. Use a study bible – read notes
5. Look up commentary – you can buy commentaries or look them up online (I just google...”commentary on _____”
6. Meditation – chew on, ponder, consider, reflect, contemplate.
7. Read scripture out loud or listen to it
8. Application – apply to your life, take your circumstances or struggle and put it in perspective with the scriptures

James 1:22 says “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”

- Ask Questions....
 1. What does it say? Make a verse by verse list of the most outstanding obvious facts. Do not paraphrase; use the words of the passage.
 2. What does it mean? What spiritual lessons or principles can be learned from these facts?
 3. What does it mean in my life? Rewrite the lesson from the previous step in the form of a personal question.
 4. What will I do about what God has said to me?

- SPECS – Carefully read the passage and write down any:
 1. Sins to avoid – what things are mentioned that displease God?
 2. Promises to claim – what is God promising in this passage?
 3. Examples to follow – (or not follow!) we can learn from bad examples as well.
 4. Commands to obey – what is God calling you to do or not do?
 5. Summarize and apply – summarize what is being taught into a specific phrase or sentence and apply it.

Not every passage will have all of these things. Just fill in what you can about the passage.

- SOAP – Read your passage and then apply these steps:
 1. Scripture – identify a verse that was particularly meaningful in the passage and write it out in your journal.
 2. Observation – what is being taught? Why is it important? Write down any general observations or questions that come to mind. Rewrite the passage in your own words.
 3. Application – ask yourself, “So what?” What action step can you take as a result of what you’ve learned in the passage? (this is why we study – we want our lives to change, we want to be obedient to God and grow)
 4. Prayer – write out a prayer to God.

- Bible Journaling Tips

Always begin your Bible reading with prayer. Ask God to open your eyes to what He has to say to you through His Word.

As you read, ask yourself who, what, where, when, why, and how. For instance:

1. Who is part of the chapter? Who is speaking? Who is doing?
2. What is taking place? What is commanded? What is promised? What is denounced? What is taught?
3. Where does the chapter take place? When does the chapter take place?
4. Why is this chapter a part of God’s Word? Why did these things happen?
5. How did these things happen? How do I live out the lesson?

- Gospel Reading Tips

If you’re reading from one of the gospels, try asking yourself these questions:

1. Is this passage about Jesus’ life or teaching?
2. What are the details of the events that happened?
3. Who were Jesus’ friends?
4. Who were Jesus’ enemies? Why?
5. How did people respond to Jesus or the message He gave in this passage?
6. Are there other passages that tell this same story in a slightly different way?
7. What other details are in those other accounts?
8. What did I learn about Jesus/God/the Spirit in this passage?

9. Did Jesus quote other Scripture in the passage?
10. Does He condemn something? Why?
11. What things does He encourage? Command? Promise? How can I apply this passage to my life?

- Parable Reading Tips

If you're reading a parable, try asking yourself these questions:

1. What is the parable or story?
2. What event or question led to Jesus telling this parable?
3. What interpretation of the parable is given?
4. Are there other passages that tell this same story in a slightly different way?
5. What central truth does this parable convey?
6. Can I apply this parable to my life somehow?

Some other questions you can ask after reading a passage of scripture:

How does the truth revealed here affect:

1. My relationship with God?
2. My relationship with others?
3. Me?
4. My response to Satan?

Hebrews 4:12 says "For the word of God is living and active.."

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"