

A Guide For Better Bible Study

The key difference between Bible reading and Bible study is writing things down.

TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

1. A Pen and Notebook
2. A Bible
3. A Process

STEP ONE: Pray

- Begin with asking the Holy Spirit to lead you into His truth

STEP TWO: Read

- Start with a book of the Bible and start with chapter one, verse one. Then just read until you stop.

STEP THREE: Context

- If you have a study Bible, read the introduction to the book you're reading. Who wrote it? Who is it to? What was the time/culture/location like? What kinds of issues were these people facing?

STEP FOUR: Words

- Look for important words, repetitive words, and words you don't understand.
- Define them in English. Use online tools to discover the Hebrew or Greek.

STEP FIVE: God – Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit

- What does this passage teach you about the character of God?

STEP SIX: Commands, Truth, Sin

- Write down commands to obey – “You should...”, “Don't do...”
- Write down truth to believe – “Jesus is God.” “You have been adopted in Christ.”
- Write down sin to confess – How do you live, believe, or think differently than what this passage is saying?

STEP SEVEN: Gospel

- How does the gospel apply? You will come across commands you aren't or don't want to obey. You'll discover truth you didn't believe or don't want to. The Holy Spirit will reveal sin in your life.
- When that happens, remind yourself that Jesus obeyed every command for you, believed every truth, and took all the punishment for every one of your sins. By grace through faith, he gave you all the blessings of a perfect record with God.
- Let that lead you to praise, worship, and gratitude to Christ.

STEP EIGHT: Trust

- Now, how will you trust God in your daily living?
 - Maybe there is a command you'll begin to obey, not out of fear or guilt, but out of joy for Jesus' work in your life.
 - Maybe there's a truth you'll share with someone else.

Set aside 30-60 minutes a week for this kind of study. In between, read the Bible, discuss the Bible, and invite the Holy Spirit teach you how to love the Bible. Learning to study the Bible is the best way to know who God is and what He's done for you.