

the Bible

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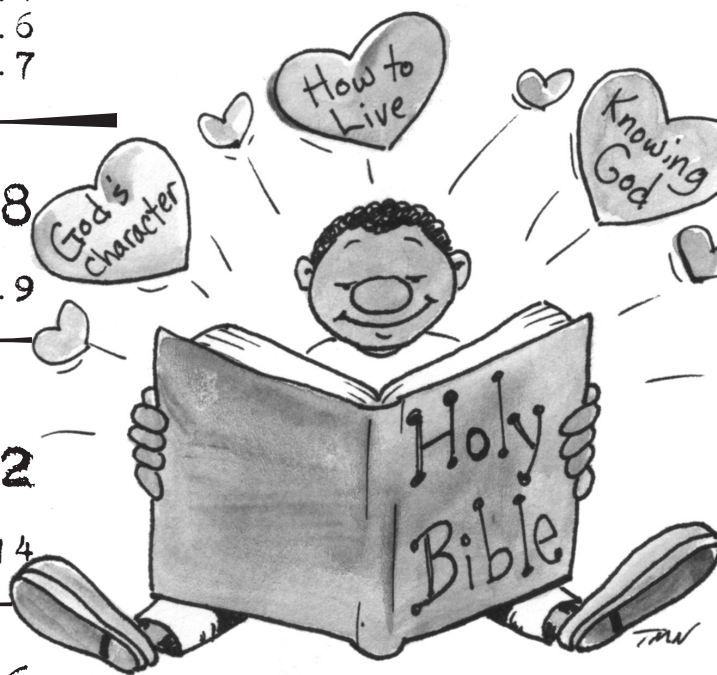
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the reliability OF THE BIBLE

What makes the Bible unique?

The Bible is the most published book and an all-time best seller.

It is the most translated book in the history of the world.

It has had a greater influence than any other book on the literature of the western world.

The Bible is unique, even miraculous, in the continuity of its message.

Consider the following facts.

It was written over a 1,500-year span and forty generations.

It was written by more than forty authors varying from kings to peasants, fishermen to statesmen, scholars to poets.

It was written on three continents (Africa, Asia, Europe).

It was written in three languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic).

Yet the Bible has perfect continuity throughout.

The one unfolding story is God's plan for reconciling people with Himself. The Old Testament tells of Jesus' coming, and the New Testament tells that Jesus came. Thus, the plan was accomplished.



The Bible is unique because it predicts the future.

The following Scriptures represent a few of the more than 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The chances of that many predictions being fulfilled by chance in one person are astronomical.

➤ Read the following passages and write a short summary of each.

His birth:	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18, 22-23
His birthplace:	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4, 6-7
His childhood in Egypt:	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14-15
The purpose for His death:	Isaiah 53:4-6	2 Corinthians 5:21 1 Peter 2:24
His betrayal:	Zechariah 11:12-13, 13:6	Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10
His crucifixion:	Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46
	22:6-7	27:27-31
	22:8	27:39-44
	22:16	Acts 2:23 and John 20:25-27
	22:18	Matthew 27:35
	22:14-17	This is a description of crucifixion. David was not experiencing crucifixion -- he was prophesying.
His resurrection:	Psalm 16:9-10	Acts 2:23-31 (verses 26-27 quote Psalm 16:9-10)

The Bible proves to be reliable on the basis of bibliographic, historical, and archaeological tests.

These are the same tests applied to all works of antiquity to establish their reliability.

The Bibliographic Test of the New Testament

The date of the oldest existing manuscript of a book of antiquity is compared to the date of its original writing. The shorter the time span, the more reliable the oldest existing manuscript is believed to be. Then, subsequent copies and translations are compared to this oldest manuscript to determine their accuracy.

Scholars have dated the writing of the New Testament at AD 40-100. That means that the writers, who claimed to be eye witnesses, recorded the events ten to seventy years after they took place. The oldest complete New Testament we have, the *Codex Sinaiticus*, is from AD 350. Between the original writing and this complete copy is a 250-year span. That is half of the time span between Homer's original writing of the *Iliad* and the oldest existing manuscript, which is not a complete work. The first complete preserved text of Homer dates from the 13th century. (McDowell, p. 39)

In addition, the greater the **number** of old manuscripts significantly aids scholars in determining accuracy; comparisons can be made among many documents.

There are more ancient manuscripts of the New Testament than any other piece of ancient literature. There are more than 5,300 known Greek manuscripts, more than 10,000 Latin Vulgate (ancient copies written in Latin) and at least 9,300 other early versions, and 24,000 partial manuscript copies of the New Testament. In comparison, there are only 643 surviving manuscripts of the *Iliad* by Homer. (McDowell, p. 39)

In comparing the copy of the New Testament used today with the ancient manuscripts, scholars have found that it is 98.33% identical. (McDowell, p. 44) The textual variations “are of so little importance that their adoption or rejection would cause no appreciable difference in the sense of the passages where they occur.” (McDowell, p. 43)

	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Earliest complete copy	# of Copies
Iliad	BC 900	BC 400	500 years	AD 1300	643
New Testament	AD 40-100	AD 125	85-25 years	AD 350	over 24,000

Bibliographic Test of the Old Testament

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 on the west side of the Dead Sea eight miles south of Jericho (Israel) by a Bedoin shepherd boy. They are dated around BC 100, about 1,000 years older than any manuscript we previously possessed. Yet, the scrolls are nearly identical

to the texts of more recent manuscripts. For example, one of the scrolls found was a complete manuscript of the Hebrew text of Isaiah. Except for minor variations such as spelling, it was exactly like the Massoretic text of Isaiah (916 A.D.). This demonstrates the unusual accuracy of the copyists of the Scripture over a thousand-year period.



Historical Test of the New Testament

World famous archaeologist Sir William Ramsay spent over thirty years examining Luke, the writer of the gospel account of Jesus and the book of the Acts of the Apostles. He came to the following conclusion: "Luke is a historian of first rank, not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy, but this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians. Luke's history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness." (McDowell, p. 71)

Other first century historians, such as Flavius Josephus (born AD 37, writing in AD 70-90), substantiate the reliability of the New Testament in their writings.



Historical Test of the Old Testament

Dr. William F. Albright, widely recognized dean of American Biblical archaeologists, writes, "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition... Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history."

(McDowell, p. 65)

Archaeological Test of the New Testament

Regarding Luke's description of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and the events surrounding it, archaeological discoveries show that the Romans had a regular enrollment of taxpayers and also held censuses every fourteen years. A papyrus found in Egypt gave directions for the conduct of a census. People were to "return to their own governments in order that they may complete the family registration of the enrollment." (McDowell, p. 71)

Archaeological Test of the Old Testament

During the excavations of Jericho (1930-1936), archeologist Garstang discovered something startling. The walls fell outwards remaining so complete and whole "that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city." (McDowell, p. 69) Walls of cities under attack do not normally fall outwards; they fall inwards. Joshua 6:20 says, *So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city.* (New American Standard Version) The walls were made to fall outward.

The Bible is among the most reliable of ancient documents. It claims to be God's word to people. If God has spoken, you would be wise to consider the implications of what He has said. Then, you must choose to align your life with His words or refuse to by overt disobedience or complacent disregard.

interacting WITH YOUR BIBLE

The Bible is extremely important in your growing relationship with God. Some people refer to it as their "Operator's Manual;" it contains the instructions you need to live your life. A Christian who does not interact with the Bible is like a pilot who flies without using his instruments or instructions from the air traffic controllers.

◆► Read what the Apostle Paul wrote about the Bible in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

When Paul writes that the Scriptures (he was referring to the Old Testament) are "God-breathed" it means God spoke them; He inspired human beings to write His words so that people could know Him. Jesus also treated the Scriptures as God's words written by men and intended to be the final authority in belief and actions. In Mark 7:8-13, He says, "... You have let go of the **commands of God** and are holding on to the traditions of men." And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the **commands of God** in order to observe your own traditions! For **Moses said**, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother:

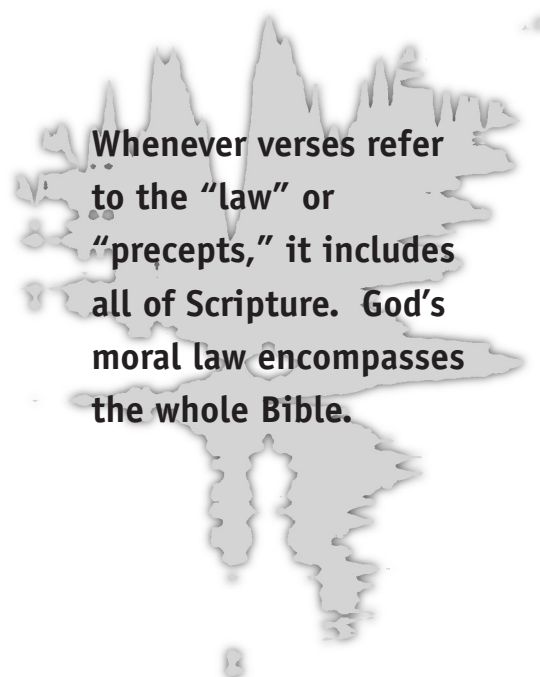
*'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the **word of God** by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.'* (emphasis mine)



Paul, in writing what became much of the New Testament, recognized that he was writing with the inspiration of God. *And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

Look back to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Since the Bible is inspired by God, it is your final authority for what you believe and how you act. According to this passage, how is the Bible useful for those purposes?

What is the result if you align your beliefs and actions with the Bible?



Whenever verses refer to the “law” or “precepts,” it includes all of Scripture. God’s moral law encompasses the whole Bible.

Here are Some Ways to Interact with the Bible

Hearing

➤ Read 1 Timothy 4:13.

Attending Christian meetings, church, and small group are all good places to hear the Bible preached.

Reading

➤ Read Romans 10:17. Faith is based on and strengthened by knowing God’s loving character. God has revealed who He is, His character, in the Bible. That is why when you read and hear the Bible, your faith increases because you know God better and can trust Him.

Read your Bible daily. Start with a goal you can achieve – read fifteen minutes a day. Consider reading Genesis, Deuteronomy, Luke, Acts, Romans, and then Philippians. A study of the gospel of John is in the Evangelism section of this notebook. Some people read through the whole Bible every year; four or five chapters per day will meet that goal.

Studying

◆➤ **Read 2 Timothy 2:15.** Studying the Bible helps you be one who “correctly handles the word of truth.”

Take a portion of Scripture and seek to understand the meaning and how it applies to life situations. The part entitled The Inductive Bible Study in this section has some suggestions.



Meditating

◆➤ **Read Psalm 1.**

What is the blessing described here of meditating on (thinking about) the Scriptures during the day and at night?

Christian meditation is focused and concentrated thinking about a truth from the Bible. Take a verse or small portion of Scripture and consider it thoughtfully for awhile. Ask God to reveal the truths it contains.

Memorizing

◆➤ **Read Psalm 119:11.**

What is one reason for memorizing Scripture?

◆➤ **Read Matthew 4:3-10.**

How did Jesus use the Scriptures He had memorized?

Memorizing Scripture, combined with meditating on its meaning, is powerful. It renews your mind, gives you a basis for rebuking Satan when he tempts you, and washes you in God's word as it reminds you how much He cherishes you.

Here are some ideas for memorizing Scripture:

Write a Scripture and place it where you'll see it every day – for instance, on your bathroom mirror.

Partner with someone and check each other's verses.

Write the verses on a note card and carry it with you so you can pull it out periodically throughout the day and practice it.

As you memorize the words of the verses, meditate on them, internalizing what the words mean.

Obeying

◆ Read James 1:22-25.

In what aspect is the Bible like a mirror?

When the Bible shows you how to live, and you don't change to align your actions with it, what happens to you? (verse 22)

According to verse 25, what should you do to experience the blessing from "the perfect law that gives freedom"?



The Bible is clear about how you are to live your daily life in your relationship with Jesus and your relationships with people. Obey what the Bible says. You will see for yourself that it shows you the path of freedom. Don't just read it. Do it.

the case for spending TIME WITH GOD

But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. Psalm 73:28

Read the following passages about Jesus. For each one, write down or tell what He did.

➤ **Matthew 14:22-23** (Jesus had just miraculously fed 5000 people.)

➤ **Mark 1:35** (Jesus had been healing many people.)

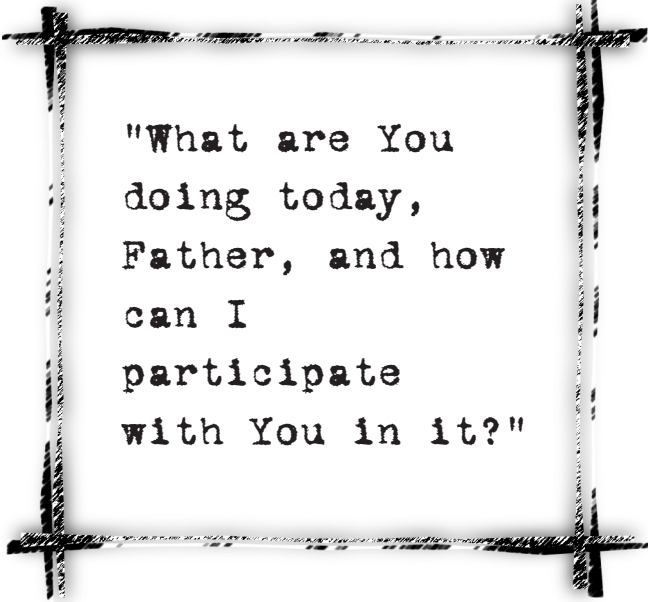
➤ **Luke 5:15-16**

What pattern of behavior do you see in Jesus?

➤ **Read John 5:19.** What does this verse reveal about what was happening when Jesus spent time with the Father?

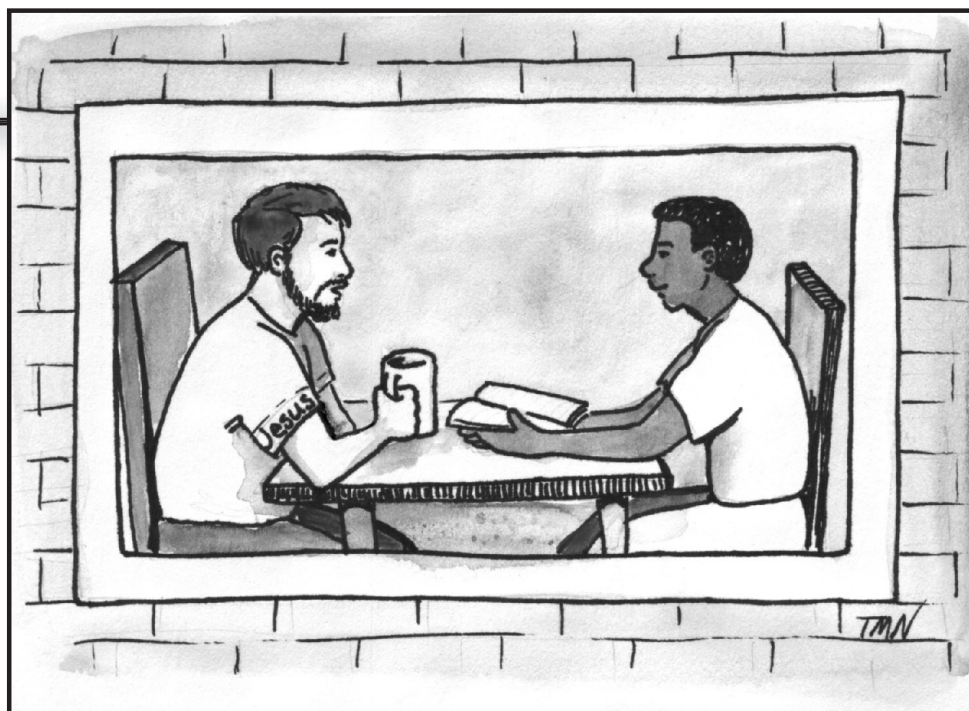
What do you think was His purpose or goal in spending time with His Father?

Why did He make it a priority? What do you think was His need?



"What are You
doing today,
Father, and how
can I
participate
with You in it?"

If Jesus wanted and needed to spend time with His Father, you need it even more. Just as Jesus only did what He saw His Father doing, you should follow His example. So, everyday, ask Him, "What are You doing today, Father, and how can I participate with you in it?"



He will speak to you in the Bible portions you read. He will speak to you in a gentle urging, or idea, or impression that comes to your mind. If you pay attention, He will show you whom He wants to love and bless through your life today.

Sometimes, God simply wants to be with you and have you be with Him so He can show you His tender care.

Besides hearing what's on God's mind, spending time with God gives you a chance to talk to Him about the things on your mind, as well. This is so important. Through your prayers, you make a way for God to go where you can never go and do things you could never do – to change people's hearts.

Spending time with God every day gives Him the opportunity to reveal areas in your life that need to change. This daily course-correction keeps you from straying very far from the path of freedom. Respond quickly as the Bible reveals the attitudes of your heart. *For the word of God is living 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. Hebrews 4:12*

***Let us acknowledge
(know) the LORD; let us
press on to acknowledge
him. As surely as the
sun rises, he will
appear; he will come to
us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains
that water the earth."
Hosea 6:3***

Make a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray. Put it in your schedule where it will be easy to do it. If you are very tired at the end of the day, don't snuggle into bed to read the Bible. It probably won't happen.

Ideas for Spending Time with God

from Heather Martin, missionary in Argentina

Choose one or more to do this week and report to your small group leader how it went.

- **Pray for someone while you brush your teeth.**
- **Express thanks to God throughout the day for any and everything.**
- **Choose not to complain but instead to ask God's help and thank him. Trust him to intervene.**
- **Often ask Jesus to make you like Himself.**
- **Pray for your professor before class starts, or pray for your boss on the way to work.**
- **In each class, ask God to send one person your way to befriend who is ready to hear about Jesus. Pray for that person when class gets boring.**
- **Read a passage of Scripture in the morning and pick a verse to focus on for the day. Write it on a note card and put it in your backpack. Take it out before class starts or while you are walking to class. Read over it, think about it, and ask God to help you implement it into your life. Try to memorize it.**
- **Make a quiet time in your day when you can lie on your bed and listen to worship music. Think about the words of the songs.**
- **Ask God to direct your steps throughout the day. Pay attention to when He might give you a gentle impression to do something you hadn't planned. Maybe there's someone He wants to bring one step closer to Himself and wants to put you in position to do it.**
- **Play an instrument while praying or worshipping the Lord.**
- **Take a drive out of town and listen to worship or teaching tapes.**
- **Go for a walk at night and pray.**
- **Read a Psalm and then compose your own to the Lord.**
- **Fast for a few meals a week to spend time with Jesus.**

- **Get together with a friend to worship Jesus and discuss the Bible.**
- **Read part of a devotional book each day, for example, *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers.**
- **Ask the Lord what He wants to do today in your world. Be quiet with Him and wait for Him to talk to you in the Bible or in your heart and mind.**
- **Read a Christian book and find one or two things to implement in your life.**
- **Turn a Scripture into a prayer.**
- **Pray for a person you pass on the sidewalk that they would have a revelation of Jesus' love and come to give their lives to Him.**
- **Put a Scripture or the prayer needs of a missionary or a country in a plastic bag and hang it in the shower. Pray while you scrub.** (from Paul Austin, Chi Alpha at Idaho State University, Pocatello.)

the inductive BIBLE STUDY

Some Scriptures to study

All of the following passages speak about the rich benefits found in the Scriptures. Choose one of them and study it using each of the different approaches to an inductive Bible study.

Psalms 19:7-11

Psalms 27:4-11

Psalms 119:9-16

Psalms 119:25-40

Psalms 119:57-60

Psalms 119:97-106

Proverbs 1:1-7

Luke 6:46-49

What is an Inductive Study of the Bible?

The inductive method is an effective and straightforward method of studying the Bible. An inductive Bible study takes a portion of Scripture and asks specific questions of the passage. The questions are of three basic types:

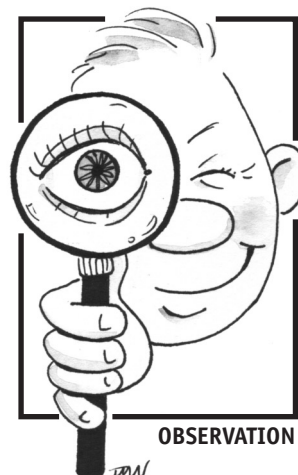
Observation – What is this passage about? What does it say?

Interpretation – What does it mean? What principle does it show?

Application – How can I apply it to my life?

Refer to Inductive Bible Study Questions in this section for several questions grouped into the three types: observation, interpretation, and application.

Write down what you have learned. It makes a great resource in the future. Some find it helpful to have a notebook just for Bible study notes.



Here are some examples of inductive study methods. Choose one passage of Scripture from the preceding list and use each method to study it.

2PROAPT

(Adapted from Discipling Ministries Seminar, Barnabus, Inc. See *Discipleship by Design* by Harvey Herman Appendix 11.1 Used with permission.)

Pray thanksgiving for God's Word and ask for revelation.

Preview the Scripture you are going to study - see how it fits with the rest of the book.

Read the passage.

Observe what the passage says –

What does it mean?

Who wrote it?

Why was it written?

To whom was it written?

Is there a principle that should be followed?

Sometimes it is helpful to paraphrase the passage in your own words, or outline the passage.

Apply the Word to your life –

What will I do? When? With whom?

Pray

Thanking God for his Word, His grace in revealing it, and ask for His help in applying it.

Tell someone what you learned – your roommate, small group leader, friend, or write in your journal.

Loralie's Bible Study Method

(Loralie (Dodd) Ahola. From Oletta Wald, *Joy of Discovery in the Bible*, Augsburg Publishing House, 426 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415, 1975, p.14.)

Observe exactly what the author is saying.

Interpret objectively what the author has written. Determine the meaning.

Summarize concisely the key ideas in the passage.

Evaluate fairly what the author has written. Try to gain a clear concept of what the author has written and what he meant.

Apply personally the message revealed. Application is the goal of the previous steps.

Actualize your convictions. Do what the Lord has revealed to you.

Twelve Questions to Ask about a Passage of Scripture

(Dick Schroeder, University Christian Fellowship Chi Alpha at Montana State University, Bozeman. Used with permission)

1. What is the main truth of this passage of Scripture?
2. What other Scripture can I find that pertains to this? (Check your concordance or the cross references in your Bible.)
3. Is there any part of the verse that I don't understand?
4. Is there a command or word of advice to be obeyed?
5. Is there a good example to follow?
6. Is there a sin or mistake to avoid?
7. Is there a warning to listen to?
8. Is there a promise God is making for me to claim?
9. Is there a prayer prayed here for me to repeat?
10. What past experience have I had that makes this Scripture real to me?
11. How can I apply this verse to my daily life?
What strengths and weaknesses does this passage reveal in my life?
How should my actions change today because of what I have read?
12. After this applicational study, what prayer do I wish to pray?

Inductive Bible Study Questions

(Adapted from Kevin M. Thompson, *Equipping the Saints: a Manual for Small Group Ministry*, Christians in Action Campus Ministry, 525 Ontario Street SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414, 1980.)

The following inductive Bible study questions can assist you as you read the Bible. Use them to create Bible studies for your small group, as well.

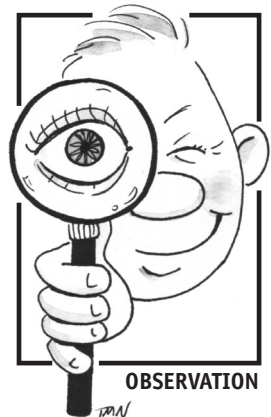
Your two goals are:

- to have a good understanding of what the text is saying,
- to have the Holy Spirit show you how to align your life with what it says.

Choose a few questions from each of the following three types.

Observation Questions: What does it say?

- What is this section all about?
- How would you outline this passage?
- What are the key phrases?
- What is the central thought expressed?
- What words keep recurring throughout the passage?
- What is the main theme of this passage?
- How would you title this section?
- What principal characters are mentioned?
- How does this section relate to the context (the surrounding text)?



Interpretation Questions: What does it mean? **What is the principle involved?**

What did it mean when it was written? Describe the historical setting.

What does it mean today?

What was the author's intent or purpose in writing?

What circumstances were present at that time -- social, cultural, and the church situation?

Why does the author say what he says? Why does he say it this way?

What did it mean to the original people to whom it was addressed?

What is noticeable, special, or unusual about how the words, phrases, and sentences are put together? What words are not clear as to their meaning?

What is the significance of quotations? Illustrations?

What does this passage teach about Christ? God's nature? People?

What does this tell you about life? The contemporary world situation?

What eternal truths are expressed by the passage?

What principles for living can you gather from this Scripture?



Application Questions: How does this apply to your life?

How does this relate to what is happening in your life today?

What is the significance, or importance, of this in your life?

Is there some need in your life to which this passage is pertinent?

How will this Scripture be a solution to a need, situation, or problem in your life or in the lives of those you love?

What is a specific course of action for you to take based on this

Scripture? What will you do? When will you do it? With (for) whom will you do it?

What can you ask God to help you do based on your study of this section?

What prayer can you pray as a response to this section? Is there a verse you can make into a prayer?

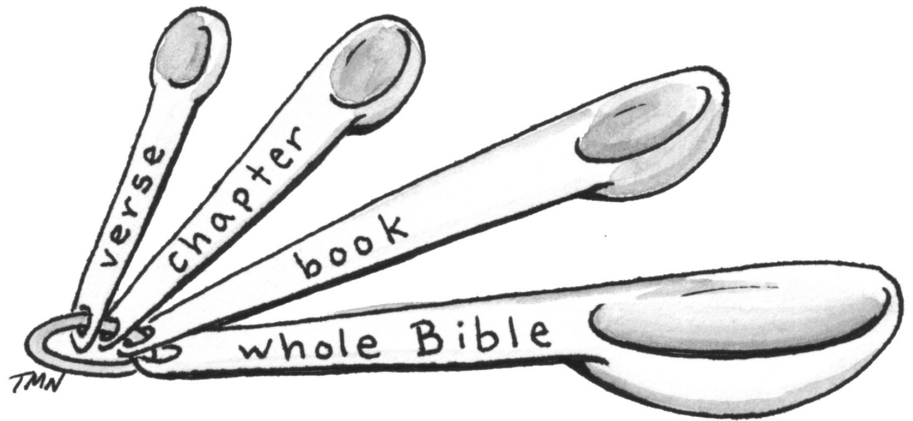
Is there a specific action your small group can take together to live out what you've learned from this Bible study?



some guidelines for UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

1. Usually, the simple and obvious meaning is the intended one.

2. Consider the verse in the context of the surrounding verses and in the context of the chapter. Consider the chapter in the context of the book.



3. Fit the passage or verse into what the Bible as a whole says about the subject. Use other passages that refer to the same subject to get a more complete understanding.

4. Consider verses in light of what the Bible reveals about God's character – what He is like. *Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." Exodus 34:5-7a*

5. Use your common sense as to the meaning. For example, sometimes Jesus used hyperbola - exaggerating something to make a point. In Matthew 5:29-30, He said, *If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.* Common sense says that Jesus did not intend for us to actually do this. He is stressing the point that we should be ruthless in dealing with sin no matter how precious the wrong attitude is to us.

6. Promises are conditional on our response to God's conditions. Fulfill the conditions attached to the promise and you can believe that God will give you the promise. Check to see that you are in the same circumstance as the person receiving the promise in the Bible. If not, look for the principle implied by the promise and apply that.

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list of SCRIPTURES

➔ About the Bible

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

commands in heart, talk about them

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

king to read law and obey

Joshua 1:8

day and night seek word

Job 23:12

treasured the words more than food

Psalms 1

delight and meditate on law

Psalms 19:9-14

precepts good, keep from sin, follow them for reward

Psalms 43:3

truth guide me

Psalms 94:12

blessed when taught and disciplined by word

Psalms 111:2

ponder His works

Psalms 119:9-16

keep us from sin, word is treasure

25-40

help me understand Your word

57-60

seek God, obey His word

97-106

faithful, revives, light

Proverbs 1:1-7

call out for insight, search as if treasure

Proverbs 28:9

don't listen to law, prayers detestable

Matthew 4:3-10

Jesus uses Scripture in wilderness

Matthew 13:13-16

calloused heart cannot hear or see truth, blessed if hear and see

Luke 6:46-49

house on rock if obey

Luke 11:28

blessed if hear and obey

John 14:23-24

if love Me, obey, and Father and I will come to you

Romans 10:17

faith comes from hearing word

Colossians 3:16

word dwell in you richly

1 Timothy 4:13

public reading of Scripture, teach, preach

2 Timothy 2:15

correctly handle the word

2 Timothy 3:16

Scripture God-breathed, useful for teaching, etc.

Hebrews 4:12

word of God living and active, sharp sword, judges heart

James 1:22-25

do the word

➔ Bible's Claim to be God's Word

Psalms 19:7-11	law of Lord is perfect, restoring soul
Matthew 28:19-20	Jesus said teach what He said
Mark 12:18-27	Jesus uses Scriptures as final authority of truth
Mark 13:31	Heaven and earth pass away but My words not pass away. Context of end times.
John 6:63	My words spirit and life
John 12:46-50	I spoke what Father told me, eternal life, My words judge those who don't receive them
John 14:26	Spirit will teach you and help you remember
John 20:30-31	These things written so we believe Jesus is Christ
Acts 17:11	Bereans examined Scriptures to check doctrine
1 Corinthians 2:10	Spirit knows thoughts of God and reveals them to us
1 Corinthians 14:37	recognize what Paul writes is Lord's commandment
Galatians 1:11-17, 2:1-9	Paul says his message revealed by Jesus, submitted it to apostles, approved
1 Thessalonians 2:13	Paul calls his word the word of God, does its work in believers
2 Timothy 2:15	correctly handle word of truth
2 Timothy 3:16	all Scripture inspired by God, good for reproof etc.
Hebrews 4:12	word is quick and powerful
James 1:5	if lack wisdom , ask God
2 Peter 1:20-21	no prophecy of Scripture had origin in will of man, spoke from God

➔ Jesus Fulfilled the Old Testament Prophecies

Matthew 5:17-18	Jesus came to fulfill Law and Prophets, not smallest letter disappear
Luke 24:27	with Moses and Prophets, Jesus explained Scriptures about Himself.
Luke 24:44-48	Jesus fulfilled Law, Prophets, Psalms, opened minds so understood, gospel message to be preached, eye witnesses

➔ Eye Witnesses

2 Peter 1:16-18

eye witness of His majesty

1 John 1:1-4

we proclaim what we've seen and heard

➔ Spend Time with God

Genesis 18:22-33

conversation between God and Abraham about sparing Sodom

Exodus 34:1-10, 34-35

Moses met often with God, ten commandments, repenting for people

Proverbs 8:17

I love those who love me (Wisdom), those seek, find

Proverbs 8:34

listens to me (Wisdom), watching daily at doors (Wisdom refers to Jesus ...Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God.... 1 Corinthians 1:30)

Jeremiah 33:2-3

call to Me and I will answer

Daniel 6:10

Daniel continues his habit of praying three times daily, though illegal

Hosea 6:3

press on to acknowledge Him, He will come to us