

## Bible Study Tools & Methods

### Youth Bible Study

- **Goal of This Study**
  - Discuss & compare variety of study methods
    - we don't study the same as others
    - we don't study the same every time (personal, message for church, for a friend)
  - Discuss & compare Bible study tools
  - How to start a Bible study
  - Making Bible study interesting
  - Making Bible study sustainable
- **Quote: "A Bible That's Falling Apart ..."**
  - What does your Bible look like?
  - Do you write in your Bible? Why or why not?
    - Pro: when a message is being preached, you can see previous notes you have written and it could help you to understand
  - What might you write in your Bible?
    - Verse or word explanations
    - Supporting Scripture references
    - Tried & Proved (TP); dates or names beside verses that have been proven to be true for you
- **Prompts**
  - Where do you get your prompts for a Bible study?
    - Questions I have (example: What Does It Mean to Worship?)
    - Songs you've heard
    - Arguments for or against something
    - Something said in a message
    - Life Events
  - How do you keep track of prompts?
    - in a notebook
    - note app on phone
    - as you start keeping track, you might find that you have plenty of topics for study
- **Where to Start**
  - Need to be spiritually hungry
    - If Bible reading & prayer are a "chore," how likely are you to do Bible study?
    - how to be spiritually hungry?
    - what do you feed on? (Possible study on "Spiritual Junk Food")
    - if we're not hungry, we might need to remove things that hinder our appetite
  - Create Habits
    - find what works for you
    - a To-Do List
    - Post It Notes (reminders)
    - schedule it on your calendar
    - other ideas?

- **Supplies**
  - Some read a verse and then meditate for a while on it
  - Others must write down their thoughts
  - Consider keeping a Prayer Journal
  - Other ways to keep track?
  - **Bibles**
    - print copy? online? Both?
    - different versions? (Discuss/Consider)
      - Amplified is a good second version
      - be careful – many versions are somewhat misleading
    - To Do: BibleGateway.net (John 4:24)
      - click on "all English translations" to see the varieties of translations
  - **Dictionaries**
    - Webster's
    - TheFreeDictionary.com
    - Strong's Concordance
      - Explore: BlueLetterBible.org (John 4:24)
    - Vine's Expository
      - StudyLight.org (search for "worship")
  - **Commentaries**
    - Caution – anything written in the last 100 or so years might not be a good source; ask spiritual leaders for advice
    - BibleHub.com or StudyLight.org
    - Matthew Henry
    - Adam Clarke
    - Keil and Delitzsch
  - **Historical Information**
    - Manners & Customs (excellent book, available on Amazon)
    - Bible-History.com
    - Josephus
  - **Other**
    - E-Sword.net
- **Bible Study Examples** (refer to handout)
  - Topical Method
  - S.O.A.P. Method
  - Verse Mapping
- **Sample Studies**
  - Character Study – Rahab
    - Where is she in the Bible? (Use e-Sword)
    - Observations from Bible reading
      - prostitute
      - not an Israelite
      - helped God's people
      - obeyed the command (red cord)

- believed and was saved
- in the lineage of Christ
- Commentaries
  - Keil and Delitzsch – "Their entering the house of such a person would not excite so much suspicion. Moreover, the situation of her house against or upon the town wall was one which facilitated escape."
- Smith Dictionary
  - look up "Jericho"
  - look up "Rahab"
- Questions
  - What was her purpose in God's plan?
  - Why was she included in the Heroes of the Faith?
  - What can I take away from this study?
- **Topic** – Worship
  - Write down questions
    - What is worship?
    - What pleases God?
    - What is the wrong kind of worship?
    - How can I be more pleasing to God in my worship?
  - Look for Scriptures about worship
    - use key words
    - remember Bible stories (woman at the well)
  - Compare worship services in the OT (tabernacle & temple) with NT
    - the importance of being clean
    - specific details about worship
  - What does worship "in spirit and in truth" mean?
  - What makes my worship better?
  - How can I make my worship more pleasing to God?
  - What things make my worship unacceptable to God?
- **Question Study**
  - Write down question
    - Example: "Is There Not a Cause?" (Song/verse)
  - What are your questions about this?
    - Examples
      - what does this mean?
      - what is the "cause"?
      - what effect should that have on me?
  - Key words in Scripture
    - 1 Samuel 17:29
    - What was the cause?
    - Why was David so passionate about it?
  - Discuss/Consider Parallels
    - Bible Stories
      - what were some other causes worth taking a stand for?

- Stories in History
  - 911 - Never forget
  - Attack on Pearl Harbor
  - Francis Scott Key – Does that banner still wave?
  - people have felt so strongly about these causes
    - willing to die for them
- Spiritual Lesson
  - how strongly do I feel about the cause of Christ?
  - if people are willing to sacrifice ALL for non-spiritual causes, what does that say to me about my passion for the cause of Christ?
- **How to Make Bible Study Interesting & Sustainable**
  - Study with a friend (prayer journals) or spouse
    - study separately – exchange notes or discuss
  - Make it personal
    - what are you dealing with?
    - what are your questions?
  - Create spiritual hunger
    - remove/limit spiritual junk food
    - meditate
    - listen to Godly music
  - What is your learning style?
    - visual?
    - audio?
  - Find a method that works for you
    - paper & pencil
    - word processing program
    - phone app
    - blogging
    - other?
  - Set goals (with reminders)
  - Be realistic
  - Divide a Bible study into small segments over several days
  - Meditate (think about it)
  - Pray about it
  - Ask spiritual leaders for advice, help, prayer
  - Let past experiences challenge you
    - have you had experiences with other religions questioning/challenging you and you did not know what to say?
      - let the failure of that experience challenged you to think, pray, meditate, and study on how to give an answer
    - the blessing of being prepared to "show myself approved" challenges you to continue in your learning process