

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