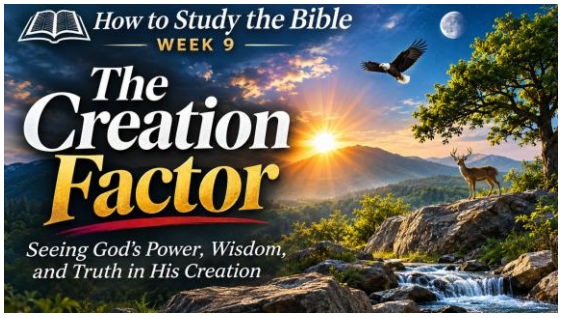


Series: How to Study the Bible in 2026

INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 2:15 – *<u>Study</u> to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **<u>rightly</u> <u>dividing</u> the word of truth**.*

The invisible things of God are understood by the **CREATION** which He has made.

God has revealed Himself through the word of God. And He has also placed evidence of His power, wisdom, and handiwork throughout His creation.

Romans 1:19 *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse;*

Creation does not replace Scripture; it provides visible testimony that points us to our Creator.

This is particularly useful when teaching someone who has never read the Bible or when witnessing to someone who does not believe in God.

1. Creation Reveals the Creator

The Principle of General Revelation

General revelation is God's testimony of Himself through creation.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God.
Psalm 97:6 The heavens declare His righteousness.
Romans 1:19-20 Creation makes God's invisible attributes understood.

Consider three things revealed through creation:

- ***His eternal power*** Creation demonstrates that God possesses power beyond anything within creation itself.
- ***His Godhead*** Creation points to God's divine nature and character
- ***His existence*** The existence of an ordered creation points beyond *Itself to its Creator.*

Practical example:

If you found a watch lying in an empty field, would you conclude that the watch assembled itself? The design, arrangement, and purpose of its components would point to an intelligent designer. Amen.

No one is without excuse.

Two categories of revelation help explain this:

- ***General revelation*** God makes Himself known through creation, which is observable by mankind.
- ***Special revelation*** God makes Himself known through the word of God.

Creation reveals God's power and divine nature, but it does not communicate the specific details of God's redemptive plan – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Comparison Scriptures

Acts 14:15-17	God left Himself a witness through His goodness.
Acts 17:24-27	God made the world and all things therein.
Psalm 19:1-4	Creation's testimony goes throughout the earth.
Romans 10:13-17	Faith cometh by hearing the word of God.

Practical Application:

We should never assume that someone is incapable of understanding the reality of God simply because that person never attended church or read a Bible. Creation itself provides a starting point for conversation about the Creator.

2. Creation Reflects the Wisdom and Design of God

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

The triune nature of God

The Godhead is revealed in Scripture as One true God in three distinct Persons:

- **The Father** ***John 6:27; 10:30; 17:11, 21; 1 John 5:7***
- **The Son** ***John 1:1, 14; 1 John 5:7***
- **The Holy Ghost** ***Acts 5:3-4; 1 John 5:7***

Three attributes of God

God has three important attributes to the one true God:

- **Omnipotent** All-powerful ***Revelation 19:6***
- **Omniscient** All-knowing ***Psalm 147:5***
- **Omnipresent** All-present ***Psalm 139:7-10***

Patterns of three in God's creation

The triune pattern of God is found throughout His creation:

- **Mankind** Body, soul, spirit
- **Time** Past, present, future
- **Reality** Space, matter, time
- **Matter** Solid, liquid, gas
- **Atom** Proton, neutron, electron

Historical perspective: Why this matters

Ancient civilizations frequently worshipped created things rather than the Creator.

- Egyptians worshipped the sun god Ra
- Babylonians **(+ other ancient cultures)** worshipped heavenly bodies/celestial powers.
- Greeks and Romans personified natural forces through their pantheons of gods.

But notice the distinction in ***Romans 1:25***

> "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

The problem was not that creation failed to reveal God. The problem was that mankind ***rejected*** the Creator and began worshipping His creation!

3. Creation Illustrates Spiritual Truth

God repeatedly uses familiar objects, animals, natural processes, and physical realities to communicate spiritual truth.

A. The Sun and Moon

Scriptures:

Genesis 1:14; Malachi 4:2; Song of Solomon 6:10; Job 25:5 *(moon shineth not)*

Spiritual illustrations:

- The sun provides light; the moon reflects light rather than producing its own light.
- Solar eclipse **(moon between world/sun);** lunar eclipse **(world between moon/sun).**

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***John 8:12*** Jesus is the Light of the world
- ***Matthew 5:14-16*** Believers are the light of the world now.
- ***Psalm 89:37*** The moon is established as *a faithful witness*.

Application:

We do not produce the spiritual light of Jesus Christ ourselves. We are to reflect His light before the world. Like the moon, we are to be a faithful witness (think dark night).

B. The Rock

Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 32:4, 18, 30, 31, 37; Numbers 20:2-12; 1 Corinthians 10:4

Spiritual illustrations:

- A rock represents stability, protection, refuge, strength, and permanence.
- The Rock is a type or picture of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***Psalm 18:2*** The LORD is my rock.
- ***Matthew 7:24-25*** Building upon the rock – Jesus Christ!
- ***1 Peter 2:6-8*** Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone.

Application:

When everything around us is changing, our confidence must rest upon our Rock!

C. Trees – Growth and Fruitfulness

Scriptures:

Psalm 1:3; 104:16 *(like a tree);* ***Jer 17:7-8****;* ***Mark 8:24*** *(I see men as trees)*

Spiritual illustrations:

- Trees are a type or picture of people – study trees! **(birch = flexible, oak = strong)**
- Roots represent stability; branches represent growth; fruit represents productivity.

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***John 15:1-8; Mt 12:33; Lk 6:44*** Abiding in Christ and bearing fruit
- ***Galatians 5:22-23*** The fruit of the Spirit – if you have Him, you have the fruit!

Application:

Spiritual maturity is not measured merely by how long someone has been saved, but by the fruit being produced in that person's life.

D. Birds – Type of demonic spirit and Holy Spirit

Scriptures:

Lev 11 *(unclean birds: spirits)****; Isaiah 34:11-15; John 1:32*** *(Holy Spirit: dove)*

Spiritual illustrations:

- Birds are a type or picture of unclean spirits or the Holy Spirit (dove)
- God's care for birds demonstrates God's care for His creation.

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***Matthew 13:4; Mk 4:4; Lk 8:5*** Parable of the Sower – "fowls"
- ***Matthew 10:29-31*** Not one sparrow falls without the Father.

Application:

If God cares so much for the birds, how much more should His children trust Him?

E. Fish – Following and Evangelism

Scriptures:

Matthew 4:19; 17:24-27

Spiritual illustrations:

- Fish are a type of people + followers of Christ; fishing is catching or saving them!
- Jesus came to earth, passed through the Deep, chose 4 commercial fishermen.

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***Luke 5:4-10; John 21:1-11*** The miraculous catch of fish.

Application:

Christ called His disciples to become fishers of men. Our responsibility is to follow Him and reach others with the Gospel.

F. Oxen – Labor and Reward

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 9:6-10 *(Christian worker);* ***1 Timothy 5:17-18*** *(pastors)*

Spiritual illustrations:

- An ox works, labors in the field, and is entitled to partake of the fruit of its labor.

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***Luke 10:7; Galatians 6:6*** The labourer is worthy of his hire.

Application:

Christians are likened to oxen. God's people should value, respect, and support those who labor in spiritual ministry.

G. Ass (Donkey) – Lost People

Scriptures:

Job 11:12 *(man born like an ass);* ***Deuteronomy 22:10; Exodus 13:13; 34:20***

Spiritual illustrations:

- The ass (donkey) was an unclean animal under the Mosaic Law.
- The firstling of an ass could be redeemed with a lamb.
- The prohibition against plowing with an ox and an ass together.

Comparison Scriptures:

- ***2 Corinth 6:14-18*** Being unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
- ***1 Peter 1:18-19*** Redemption through the precious blood of Christ.

Application:

Lost people are likened to donkeys. God's people are called to live differently from the world. We must not compromise biblical convictions simply to maintain relationships or gain acceptance from the world.

4. God's Use of Pictures and Types

This factor demonstrates another example of God's use of ***pictures*** or ***types*** in Scripture.

Types (picture)

A type is simply a foreshadow or illustration of another person, place, or event.

Understanding this helpful tool will open your Bible to truth like nothing else can.

Comparisons

After looking at some of the examples above, we are reminded of two very important words in the Bible:

Like and ***As***

The most common form of teaching is by association, comparison, or contrast ***(Hosea 12:1)***. God's truth is spiritual, heavenly, and eternal. Man's understanding is carnal, earthly, and finite. Therefore, we need these words to help us "get" something we do not know by showing us something we do know!

The Conclusion

This factor is an incredible witnessing tool and teaching aid because it is part of God's ***General revelation***… seen by **ALL** men, every day!