

# How To Study The Bible

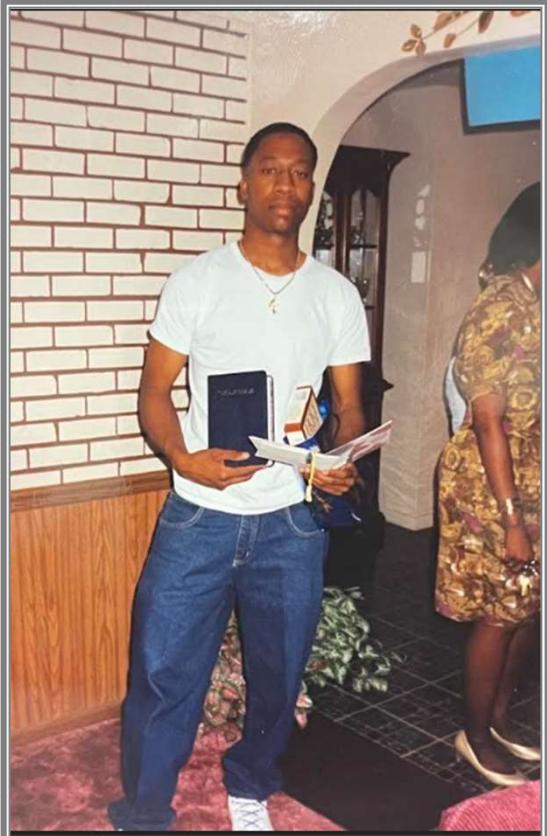
---



*Grace Reformed Episcopal Church  
28 January 2026  
Min Cedric Nettles Sr.*

# The Nettles Family





Cedric Nettles Sr.  
April 1997

---



Nettles Family  
SC

---

# OVERVIEW

---

- The Why / What
- The How
- The Bible
- Study Methods
- Practice Exercise
- Reading Plans
- Essential Study Tools
- Accountability
- Q & A
- The Ask

# The Why

---

To know God, grow spiritually, and live according to His will (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It's a personal conversation with God.

- 2 Timothy 3: 16-17
- <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The background is a dark, moody photograph of an open antique book. The book is bound in dark leather and is open to two pages filled with dense, handwritten text in a Gothic script. A single lit candle on a tall, thin stand is positioned to the left of the book, casting a warm glow on the pages. The overall atmosphere is historical and contemplative.

# The What

---

Question: What is the Bible?

# The What

## What is the Bible?

---

- Written Word of God
  - Compilation of 66 Books and Letters
    - Old Testament – 39 Books
    - New Testament – 27 Books
  - 40 Writers
  - Period 1,500 Years
- The English word “Bible” comes from *biblia* in Latin and *biblos* in Greek. The term means book or books.

# 66 Books of the Bible



# The How

## How to Study the Bible.

---

- Methods
  - OIA (Observation, Interpretation, and Application)
  - SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)
  - THE 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where, Why)

# The How

## The OIA Study Method

---

- **Observation:** Examine the text closely to understand what it says.
- **Interpretation:** After observing the text, interpret its meaning. “What is the author trying to communicate”?
- **Application:** Apply the insights gained from the observation and interpretation to your life. “How does this passage encourage me/apply to my life”?

## The How

# The SOAP Study Method

---

- **Scripture:** Select a bible verse and write it out in your own words.
- **Observation:** Reflect on the verse, ask questions like “What stands Out”; “What is the Context”?
- **Application:** Examine How the Scripture applies to your life today.
- **Prayer:** Spend time with God about the verse; prayer creates a space for reflection and seeking God’s guidance.

# The How

## The 5 W's Study Method

---

- **Who:** Identify key figures and authors within the text.
- **What:** Analyze the text's language, structure, and themes to uncover deeper meanings and connections within the Scripture.
- **When:** Explore the historical context in relation to the socio-political climate of the time.
- **Where:** Consider the geographical setting
- **Why:** Discover the purpose and relevance of the text.

# Exercise #1

---

- John 3:16
- <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

# The How

## The OIA Study Method

---

- **Observation:** Examine the text closely to understand what it says.
- **Interpretation:** After observing the text, interpret its meaning. “What is the author trying to communicate”?
- **Application:** Apply the insights gained from the observation and interpretation to your life. “How does this passage encourage me/apply to my life”?

# Exercise #1

---

- John 3:16
- <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

✓ **OIA:** Observation, Integration, Application

## The How

# The SOAP Study Method

---

- **Scripture:** Select a bible verse and write it out in your own words.
- **Observation:** Reflect on the verse, ask questions like “What stands Out”; “What is the Context”?
- **Application:** Examine How the Scripture applies to your life today.
- **Prayer:** Spend time with God about the verse; prayer creates a space for reflection and seeking God’s guidance.

# Exercise #1

---

- John 3:16
- <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

✓ **SOAP**: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

# Exercise #2

---

- Philippians 4:4-7
- <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# The How

## The 5 W's Study Method

---

- **Who:** Identify key figures and authors within the text.
- **What:** Analyze the text's language, structure, and themes to uncover deeper meanings and connections within the Scripture.
- **When:** Explore the historical context in relation to the socio-political climate of the time.
- **Where:** Consider the geographical setting
- **Why:** Discover the purpose and relevance of the text.

## Exercise #2

---

- Philippians 4:4-7
- <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

✓ 5W's : Who, What, When, Where, Why \_\_\_\_\_

## The How

# The SOAP Study Method

---

- **Scripture:** Select a bible verse and write it out in your own words.
- **Observation:** Reflect on the verse, ask questions like “What stands Out”; “What is the Context”?
- **Application:** Examine How the Scripture applies to your life today.
- **Prayer:** Spend time with God about the verse; prayer creates a space for reflection and seeking God’s guidance.

# Exercise #2

---

- Philippians 4:4-7
- <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

✓ **SOAP**: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

# Exercise #3

---

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall <sup>[a]</sup>direct your paths.

✓ OIA: Observation, Integration, Application

# Exercise #3

---

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall <sup>ad</sup>direct your paths.

✓ **SOAP**: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

# Selecting a Bible

---

## **Bible Translations:**

NIV – New International Version

KJV – King James Version

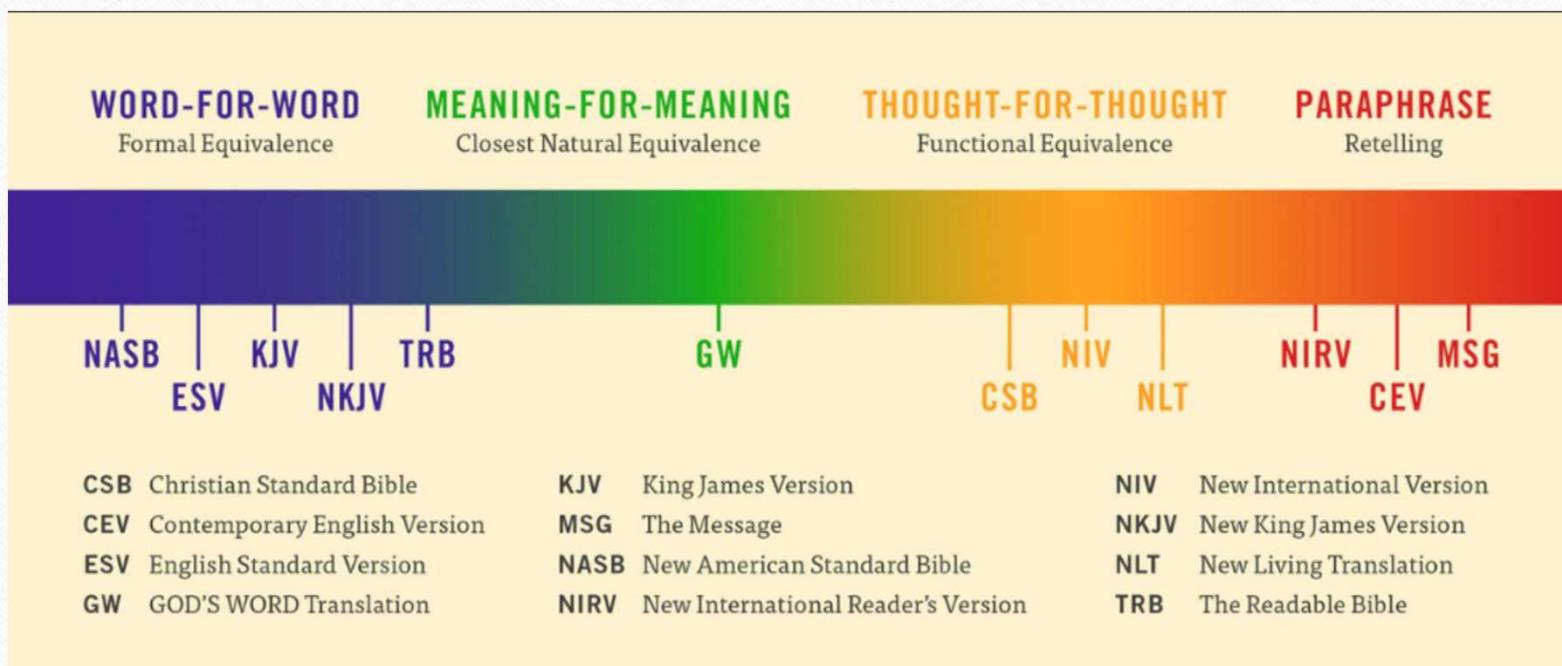
NKJV – New King James Version

ESV – English Standard Version

NRSV – New Revised Standard Version

NLT - New Living Translation

# Bible Translation Comparison



# Bible Translations

- NIV (New International Version)
- **1 Corinthians 15:50 (NIV):** I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

---

- KJV (King James Version)
- **1 Corinthians 15:50 (KJV):** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

- NKJV (New King James Version)
- **1 Corinthians 15:50 (NKJV):** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

- NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)
- **1 Corinthians 15:50 (NRSV):** What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

# Bible Study Reading Plan

---

## **Book Order Bible Reading Plan**

Read from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 in the order in which the books of the Bible are arranged.

This plan takes 365 days to complete.

## **Chronological Bible Reading Plan**

Read the Bible in the order that the events happened.

This plan takes 365 days to complete.

## **Classic Bible Reading Plan**

Read 3 passages each day, starting with Genesis, Psalms, and Luke. From the original Bible Study Tools reading plan.

This plan takes 365 days to complete.

## **Ninety-Day Challenge Bible Reading Plan**

Read the Bible all the way through in only 90 days. It's a challenge well worth taking.

This plan takes 90 days to complete.

# Bible Study Tools

---

**Study Bibles:** Provide additional elements such as footnotes, cross-references, concordances, maps, charts, and contextual explanations.

**Bible Commentaries:** Provide explanation and interpretation of Biblical Text.

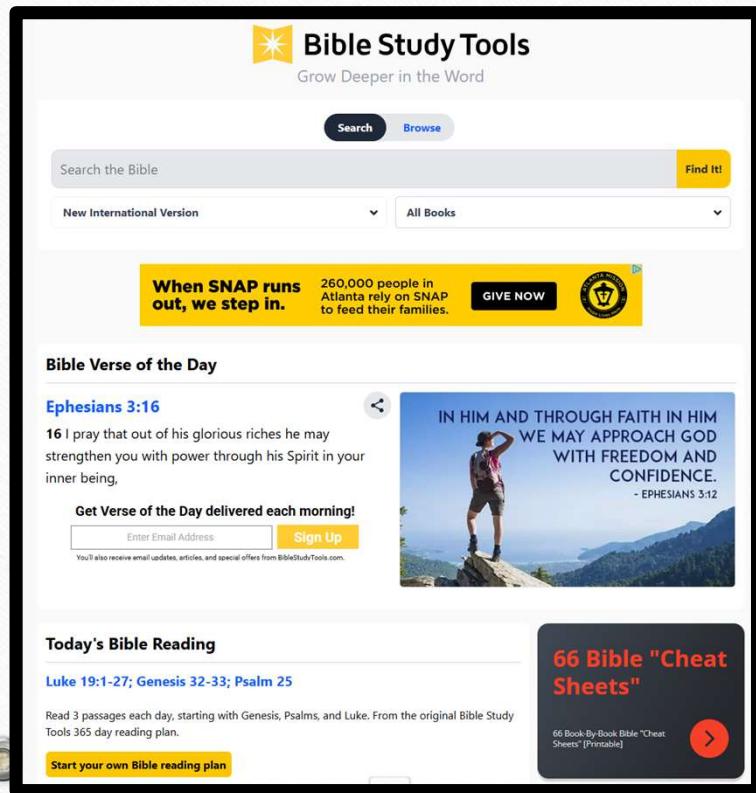
**Online Tools:**

Bible Study Tools: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

Bible Gateway: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

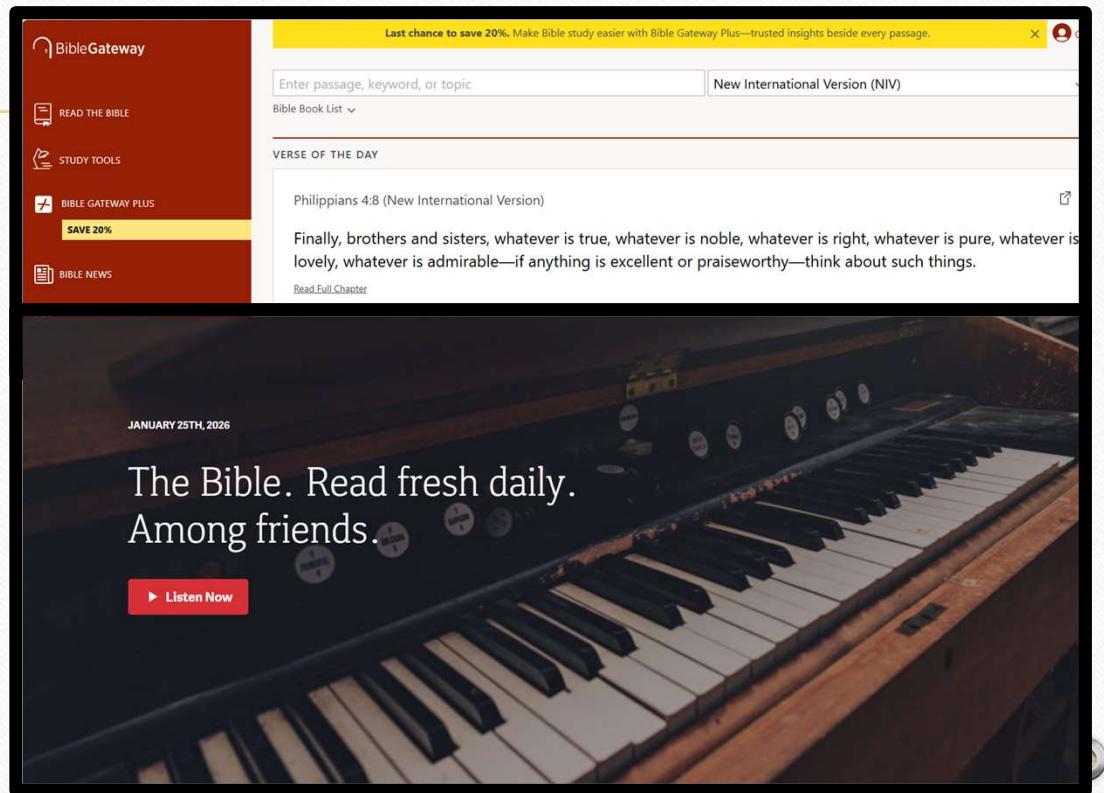
# Bible Study Online Tools

## Bible Study Tools



The screenshot shows the homepage of Bible Study Tools. At the top, there's a search bar with 'Search' and 'Browse' buttons, and a 'Find It!' button on the right. Below the search bar are dropdown menus for 'New International Version' and 'All Books'. A yellow banner at the top says 'When SNAP runs out, we step in.' with a 'GIVE NOW' button and a logo. The 'Bible Verse of the Day' section features a quote from Ephesians 3:16: '16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.' Below this is a sign-up form for 'Get Verse of the Day delivered each morning!' with fields for 'Enter Email Address' and 'Sign Up'. A note says 'You'll also receive email updates, articles, and special offers from BibleStudyTools.com.' The 'Today's Bible Reading' section lists 'Luke 19:1-27; Genesis 32-33; Psalm 25'. A note says 'Read 3 passages each day, starting with Genesis, Psalms, and Luke. From the original Bible Study Tools 365 day reading plan.' A button says 'Start your own Bible reading plan'. A sidebar on the right says '66 Bible "Cheat Sheets"' with a '66 Book-By-Book Bible "Cheat Sheets" [Printable]' link and a red '▶' button.

## BibleGateway



The screenshot shows the homepage of BibleGateway. At the top, there's a yellow banner with the text 'Last chance to save 20%. Make Bible study easier with Bible Gateway Plus—trusted insights beside every passage.' Below the banner is a search bar with 'Enter passage, keyword, or topic' and a dropdown for 'Bible Book List'. A note says 'New International Version (NIV)'. The main content area features a 'VERSE OF THE DAY' section for 'Philippians 4:8 (New International Version)'. The text reads: 'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.' A link 'Read Full Chapter' is below the text. The background of the main content area is a photograph of a pipe organ. A red button at the bottom left says '▶ Listen Now'.

# Bible Study Online Tools

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>



Grow Deeper in the Word

Search

Browse

Search the Bible

Find It!

New International Version

All Books

When SNAP runs out, we step in. 260,000 people in Atlanta rely on SNAP to feed their families.

GIVE NOW



## Bible Verse of the Day

### Ephesians 3:16

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Get Verse of the Day delivered each morning!

Enter Email Address

Sign Up

You'll also receive email updates, articles, and special offers from BibleStudyTools.com.



## Today's Bible Reading

### Luke 19:1-27; Genesis 32-33; Psalm 25

Read 3 passages each day, starting with Genesis, Psalms, and Luke. From the original Bible Study Tools 365 day reading plan.

Start your own Bible reading plan

66 Bible "Cheat Sheets"

66 Book-By-Book Bible "Cheat Sheets" [Printable]

➤ Bible Verse of the Day ➔

➤ Daily Bible Reading ➔

# Bible Study Online Tools

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

## Featured Verse Topics

[Inspirational Bible Verses](#)

[Healing Bible Verses](#)

[Strength Bible Verses](#)

[Love Bible Verses](#)

[Worry and Anxiety Bible Verses](#)

[Forgiveness Bible Verses](#)

[Bible Verses About Grief](#)

[Comforting Bible Verses](#)

[Friendship Bible Verses](#)

[God's Promises in the Bible](#)

[Short Bible Verses](#)

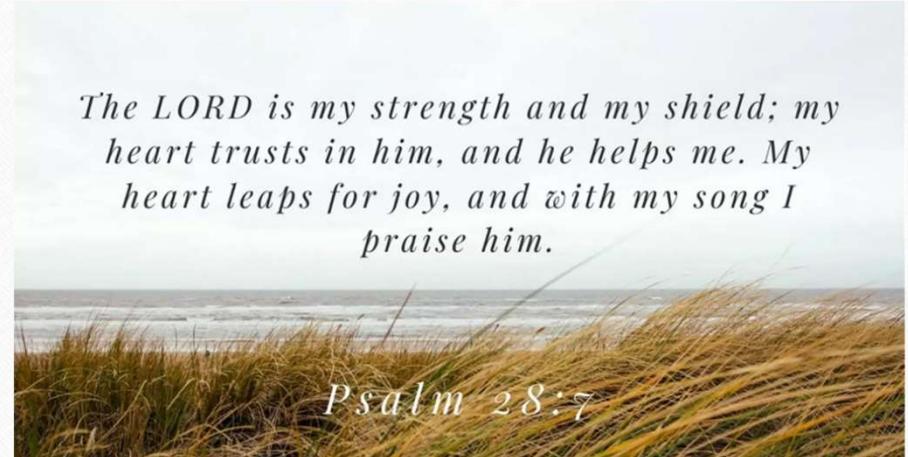
[Encouraging Bible Verses](#)

## Strength Bible Verses

Compiled by The BibleStudyTools Staff on 12/05/2025

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*

*Psalm 28:7*

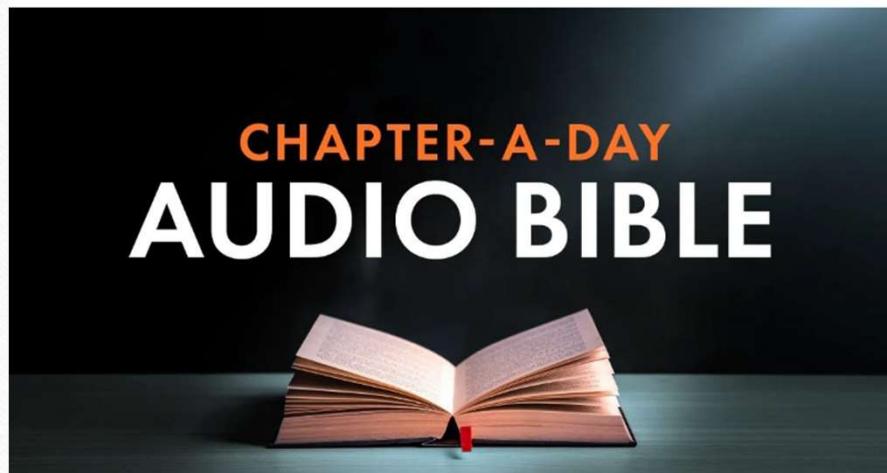


# Bible Study Online Tools

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

---

Chapter-A-Day Audio Bible



# SUMMARY

---

- The Why / What
- The How
- The Bible
- Study Methods
- Practice Exercise
- Reading Plans
- Essential Study Tools
- Accountability
- Q & A
- The Ask

# QUESTIONS

---

How to Study The Bible

# THANK YOU

---

Min Cedric Nettles Sr.

843-995-4810

[Cedric.nettles22@gmail.com](mailto:Cedric.nettles22@gmail.com)