

A  SEMINARY CLASS

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study



PSALM 22:14

14 I am poured out like water  
and all my bones are out  
it is melted within my heart  
15 my strength is dried up like a pot  
and my tongue sticks to my  
you lay me in the class of dead  
16 For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircle  
they have pierced my hands and feet  
17 I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;  
18 they divide my garments among them  
and for my clothing they cast lots.  
19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my  
aid!  
20 Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of  
the dog!  
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns  
of the wild oxen!  
22 I will tell of your name to my brothers  
in the ranks of the congregation I will  
praise you.  
23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you  
offspring of Israel!  
24 For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him,  
and I  
25 From you comes my praise in the great  
congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those  
who fear him.  
26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the  
Lord!  
27 My heart lives forever!  
28 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you,  
29 For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.  
30 All the prosperous of the earth  
shall worship,  
and I

The King of G  
A Ps  
The

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This book belongs to:



<i>w one</i>	Introduction: What is Bible Study and Why does it Matter?
<i>w two</i>	Identifying Unhelpful Bible Reading and Bible Study Approaches
<i>w three</i>	Looking for the Big Story - Identifying a General Framework for the Bible
<i>w four</i>	Getting Specific Part 1 - Exegesis
<i>w five</i>	Getting Specific Part 2 - Exegesis Continued
<i>w six</i>	Building a Process Part 1 - Patience and Comprehension
<i>w seven</i>	Building a Process Part 2 - Interpretation and Application
<i>w eight</i>	Praying and Applying the Scriptures

**Required Materials**

Pencil, Pen, Highlighter, Notebook

**Required Books**

Bible (Teacher will be using ESV)

## WEEK: ONE

### TOPIC: INTRODUCTION WHAT IS BIBLE STUDY AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

"The biblical canon is the collection of scriptural books that God has given his corporate people, which are distinguished by their divine qualities, reception by the collective body, and their apostolic connection, either by authorship or association."

-Michael Kruger

## NOTES:

### What is the bible?

*2 Peter 1:19-21*

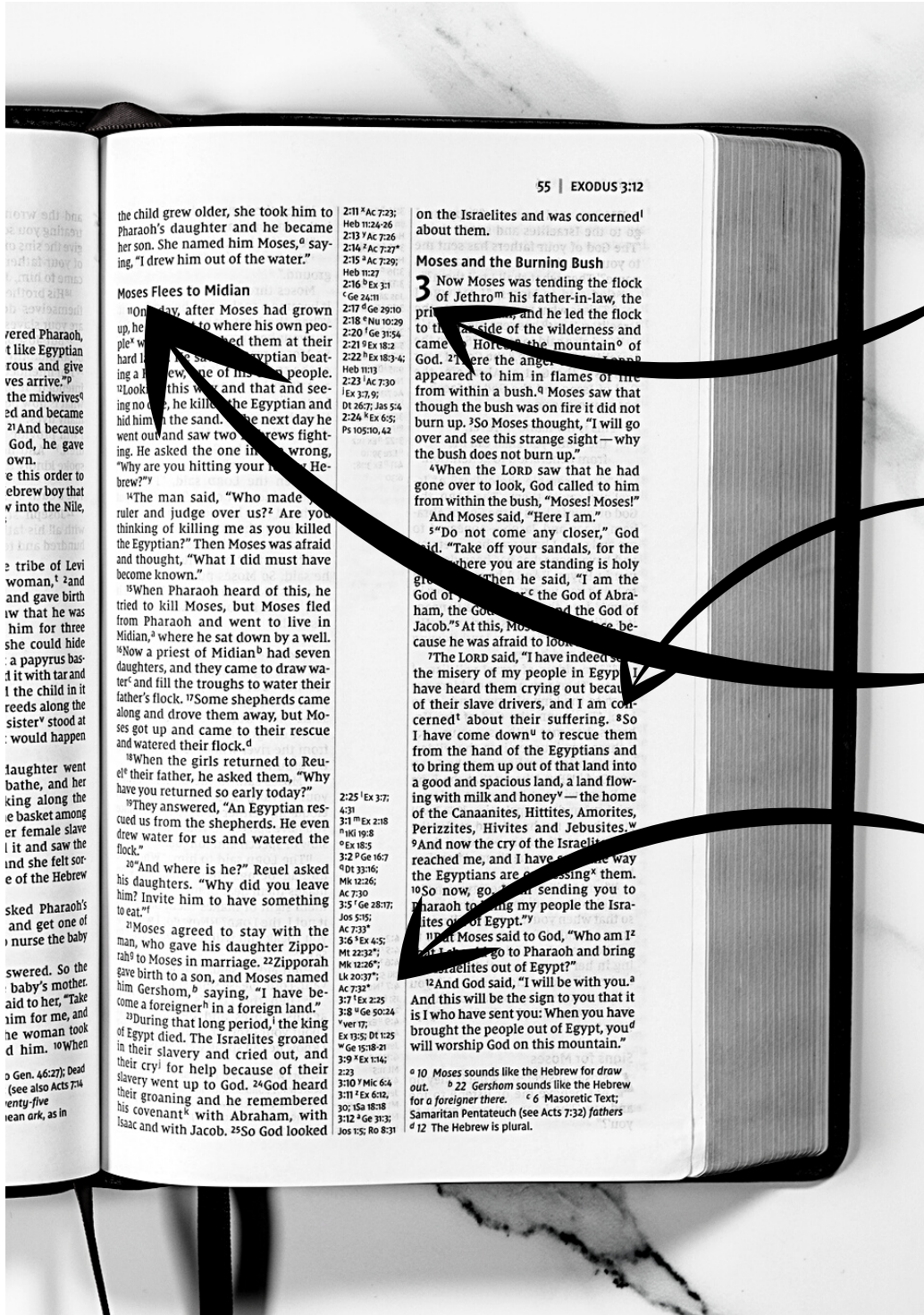
*[19] And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, [20] knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [21] For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (ESV)*

*The Reformation Study Bible says, "The Bible may be called a \_\_\_\_\_ of books compiled into one \_\_\_\_\_ volume."*

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the best resource we have to understanding the New Testament.



NOTES:



The more we are flipping through our pages, reading, marking the text, writing about it, the greater our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## NOTES:

“ **The biblical canon is the collection of scriptural books that God has given his corporate people, which are distinguished by their divine qualities, reception by the collective body, and their apostolic connection, either by authorship or association.**

-Michael Kruger

These books were largely decided on by virtue of three factors:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



For more detailed explanation of this, including the historical and theological basis for the Canon, see <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-biblical-canon/>

### What does it mean to study the bible?

There is a distinction between studying the bible, and \_\_\_\_\_ the bible.

If you aren't reading your bible, then you can't \_\_\_\_\_ it.

We are what we eat- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I can't live a healthy life only eating snacks and not real meals, and you can't live a healthy spiritual life only snacking on the words of God and not sitting down and feasting on it.

The verb form of "study" means: *to devote \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to acquiring knowledge on a subject, especially by means of books; to investigate and analyze in detail; to learn*

## NOTES:

*intensively about something, especially in preparation for a test of knowledge; to give serious thought or attention to; to look closely in order to observe or read.*

Our understanding of the Scriptures and our spiritual growth is more often than not \_\_\_\_\_, challenging, a \_\_\_\_\_, and a battle.

“ **The God of the bible is too lovely to abandon to lesser pursuits.**

-Jen Wilkin



**Our spiritual growth is like watching grass grow. It's often imperceptible-impossible to perceive or see. But when we look back over time, we see the growth.**

### **Why does it matter to read or study the bible at all?**

Because God showed us thousands of years ago that Scripture would be his \_\_\_\_\_ way of communicating with his children.

The Bible is:

- Infallible - It is \_\_\_\_\_ for it to have any errors.
- Inerrant - Every Word of God is pure and true, and the bible is without \_\_\_\_\_.
- Complete - Nothing needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the bible. Also, nothing should be taken \_\_\_\_\_. (See Revelation 22:18b-19)
- Authoritative - It is the \_\_\_\_\_ authority.
- Sufficient - In it, God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ things pertaining to life and godliness.
- Effective - It always accomplishes its \_\_\_\_\_. It always does what it says it will do. (See Isaiah 55:11; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)
- Derminative - How you respond to the Word of God determines the essence of your life and your eternal \_\_\_\_\_.



**Summary:**

**The bible is God's gift to us.**

**It is his primary means of communicating to his children.**

**We must put in the hard work to not only read the bible but study the bible.**

O God of truth, I thank you for the holy Scriptures, their precepts, promises, directions, light. In them may I learn more of Christ, be enabled to retain his truth and have grace to follow it.

Help me to lift up the gates of my soul that he may come in and show me himself when I search the Scriptures, for I have no lines to fathom its depths, no wings to soar to its heights.

By his aid may I be enabled to explore all its truths, love them with all my heart, embrace them with all my power, engraft them into my life. Bless to my soul all grains of truth garnered from your word; may they take deep root, be refreshed by heavenly dew, be ripened by heavenly rays, be harvested to my joy and your praise. Help me to gain profit by what I read, as treasure beyond all treasure, a fountain which can replenish my dry heart, its waters flowing through me as a perennial river drawn on by the Holy Spirit. Enable me to distill from its pages faithful prayer that grasps the arm of your omnipotence, achieves wonders, obtains blessings, and draws down streams of mercy. From it show me how my words have often been unfaithful to you, injurious to my fellow-men, empty of grace, full of folly, dishonoring to my calling. Then write your own words upon my heart and inscribe them on my lips. So shall all glory be to you in my reading of your word!

## *A MINISTER'S BIBLE*







## WEEK: TWO

### TOPIC: IDENTIFYING UNHELPFUL BIBLE READING AND BIBLE STUDY APPROACHES

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

“shows you how life works best, but the Bible isn’t mainly about you and what you should be doing. It’s about God and what he has done.”

-Sally Lloyd Jones

*The Jesus Storybook Bible*

## NOTES:

### A brief word about translations:

The Bible was written in \_\_\_\_\_ languages- Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek. We need the bible translated for us to be able to read it!

“**The biblical canon is the collection of scriptural books that God has given his corporate people, which are distinguished by their divine qualities, reception by the collective body, and their apostolic connection, either by authorship or association. To put it slightly more technically, every translation of the Bible has to aim, to one degree or another, at both accuracy and readability. Some translation committees take it as their mission to heavily privilege accuracy and necessarily sacrifice readability to a certain degree. Other translation committees set out to**

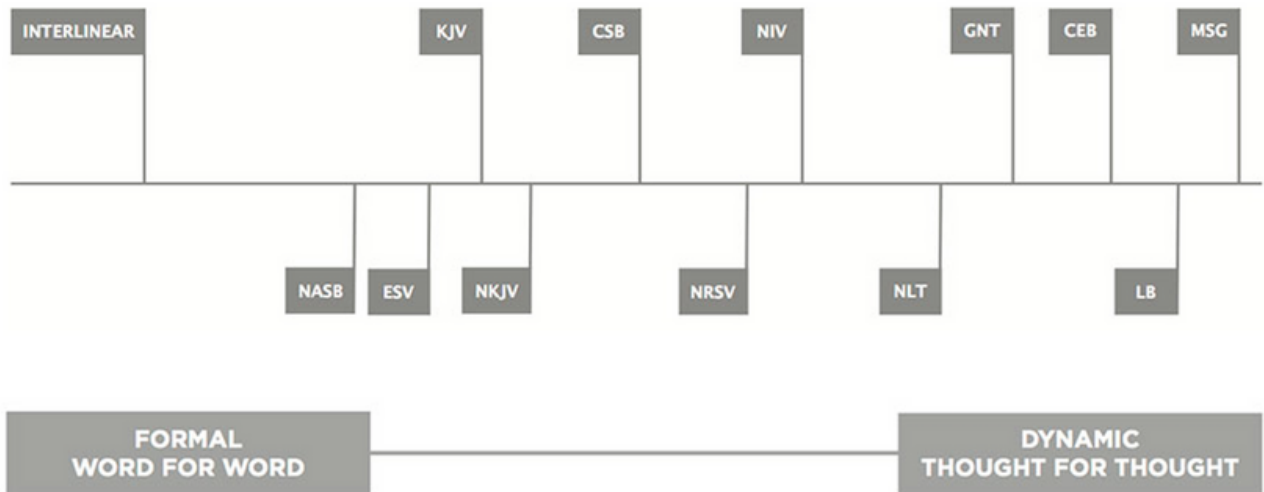
## NOTES:

produce a version that is eminently readable, but that decision necessarily means the translators will have to rearrange some of the original language's word order so that the sentences will sound "right" to an English-language ear.

Nothing in either the theory or the reality-on-the-ground of Bible translations introduces the slightest bit of doubt about whether we can really know what the Bible in its original languages says. In fact, we do know what it says, and the places where some scholars disagree are few and far between and ultimately of minor significance. The Bible can be and has been translated correctly, over and over and over again.

-Greg Gilbert

### BIBLE TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



*Bible translations shown in the top half of the chart are original translations directly from ancient languages to English. Versions shown below the line began with the English text of another Bible translation.*



## NOTES:

### Unhelpful Bible Reading and Bible Study Approaches:

When interacting with the Scriptures we never want to only see the part without acknowledging the \_\_\_\_\_.



The names of these different types of approaches come from Jen Wilkin's *Women of the Word*.

### Yearbook/Xanax Approach

In summary, this is when \_\_\_\_\_

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The problem with this approach is \_\_\_\_\_

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### Pinball Approach

In summary, this is when \_\_\_\_\_

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The problem with this approach is \_\_\_\_\_

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Not every encounter with the bible is automatically sound or beneficial. Jen Wilkin has a definition for sound, effective bible study. She says, "sound bible study transforms the heart by training the mind and it places God at the center of the story."

### Genie in a Lamp/Magic 8 Ball Approach

In summary, this is when \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTES:**

The problem with this approach is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Topical Bible Study Approach**

In summary, this is when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The problem with this approach is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Snacking Approach/The Crumbs from the Table Approach**

In summary, this is when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The problem with this approach is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Jack Sprat Approach**

In summary, this is when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES:

The problem with this approach is \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Summary:**

**There are many different English translations of the Bible.**

**There are a lot of different unhelpful approaches we can take to studying God's word. Sometimes we approach God's word in these ways unknowingly.**

**God wants *you* to know Scripture because God wants *you* to know *him*.**

**HOMEWORK AND REFLECTION:  
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.**

What are some ways you have used the Bible as if it were a book about you? How does seeing the Bible as a book primarily about God, not you, change things? Read the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). How does the meaning and application change when you see God, rather than yourself, as the focus of the parable?

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What is the hardest bad habit you've ever had to break? How did you break it? How long did it take you?

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We talked about several unhelpful bible study approaches. Which of those have you personally practiced before? Or, if you've practiced many of those (like me), which one do you most tend to practice?

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Do you think one of these approaches is more dangerous or harmful than the others? If so, which one? Do you think any of them can be helpful? If so, which one(s)?

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We talked about how everybody in our sphere of influence is affected by our growth in knowledge, understanding, and love of the bible. Which of your relationships would benefit most if you devoted yourself to loving God with your entire mind?

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## WEEK: THREE

### TOPIC: LOOKING FOR THE BIG STORY - IDENTIFYING A GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE BIBLE

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

“is a bunch of little stories that tell one big story. The entire bible is telling us of the rule and reign of God through creation, fall, redemption, and restoration (or consummation).

### NOTES:

#### What is the purpose of the Bible?

We want to have the \_\_\_\_\_ purpose in reading the scriptures as the scriptures themselves have for existing.

The Bible is one \_\_\_\_\_ made up of 66 smaller books (or 66 books that fit together to make up one majestic \_\_\_\_\_).

The Bible is a bunch of little stories that tell one big \_\_\_\_\_. The entire Bible is telling us of the rule and reign of God through:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

(or consummation).

**“ All the little stories tell one big story about the God who made all things for his glory.**

**-Shai Linne**

## NOTES:

### What is my purpose in reading the bible?

Our purpose in reading the Bible should be to look for that big \_\_\_\_\_ every time we read.

### What is a metanarrative?

A metanarrative is the big picture, or all-encompassing \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ smaller themes or individual stories. It is also called the \_\_\_\_\_ narrative, or general framework.

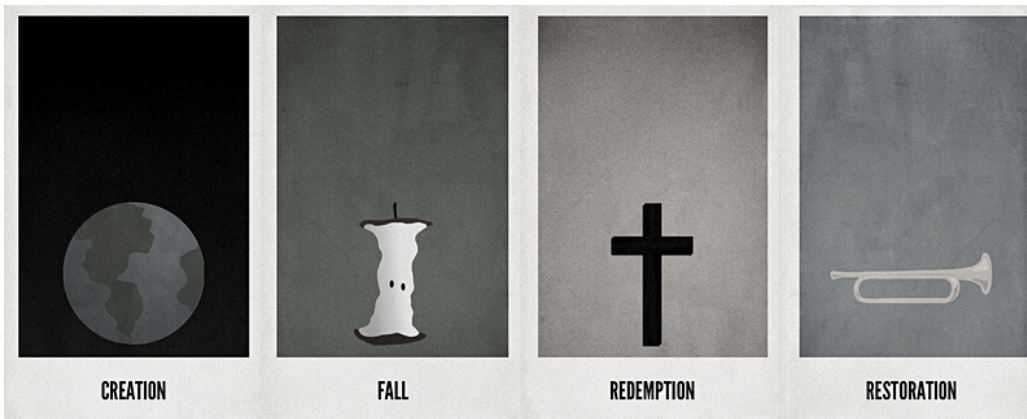
Meta - Greek prefix meaning " \_\_\_\_\_ "  
Narrative - an account of \_\_\_\_\_ events.



Some examples from today of *metanarrative* include:

*Harry Potter*  
*The Lord of the Rings*  
*The Marvel Movies*

### The metanarrative/grand narrative/general framework/story of the Bible:



You may also say "*consummation*" instead of "*restoration.*"

### Creation:

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**NOTES:**

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**Fall:**

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**Redemption:**

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**Restoration (Consummation):**

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**re·demp·tion**  
/rə'dem(p)SH(ə)n/

**the action of saving or being saved from sin or evil; the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.**

This isn't just a helpful outline of the Scriptures. This is our life! All of our life is framed through this and by this. This informs our identity. This is THE redemptive story. This is \_\_\_\_\_ redemption story.



## NOTES:

### Examples of little stories that tell one big story:

Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)

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Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)

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Jesus Healing a Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

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The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

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“ The knowledge of God and the knowledge of self always go hand in hand.

-Jen Wilkin



#### DISCLAIMER!

You will not see all the parts of the grand narrative in every passage you read! But you can and will see some of these themes.



#### Summary:

The Bible's purpose is to tell one majestic story.

Our purpose in reading the Bible should be to understand this Story.

This Story is broken up into four major movements: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.





## WEEK: FOUR

### TOPIC: GETTING SPECIFIC PART 1—EXEGESIS

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

"compares searching for wisdom to digging for different types of precious jewels and treasures. Is digging easy? No. It requires work. Hard work. Especially if you're trying to be careful as you dig."

## NOTES:

### A helpful reminder:

We don't read the Bible to earn God's

\_\_\_\_\_.

God \_\_\_\_\_ us. It's not because of anything we've done that he loves us; it's because he is a loving and kind God. He made us and chose us and chose to reveal himself to us. He granted us faith, and eyes to see, and so we believe. Our bible reading or lack thereof does not change God's love for us.

We read the Bible because it's how we know

\_\_\_\_\_.

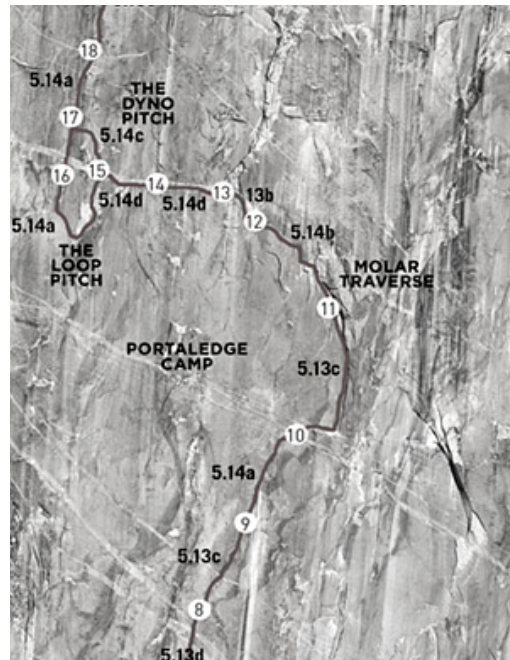
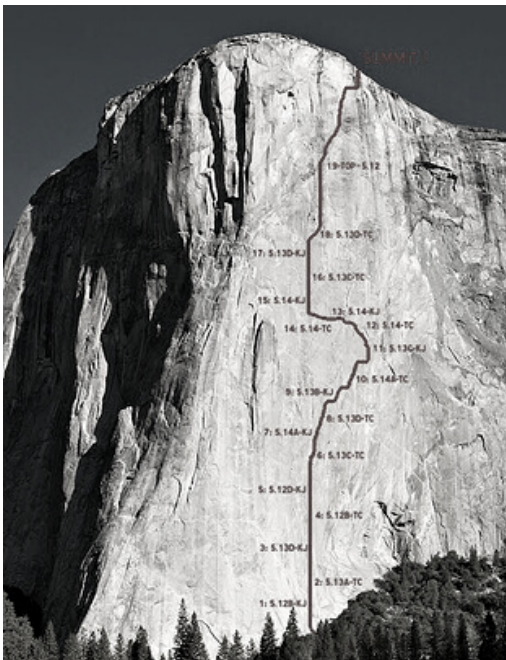
In studying with \_\_\_\_\_ we keep in mind the overall purpose of Scripture.

# NOTES:

## The Dawn Wall:



Check out *The Dawn Wall* or *Free Solo* to see people climb El Capitan.



“Not only do all sixty-six books of the Bible tell one big, sweeping story, but each of those sixty-six books tells its own story, reflecting the character of God through a particular historical and cultural lens, through its own type of literature and writing. This lens gives us the necessary perspective we need to understand a text correctly.”  
-Jen Wilkin

**NOTES:**

The purpose, again- the story of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God through creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.

In studying with \_\_\_\_\_, we want to see how each individual part of Scripture tells its own story, teaching us about God, within a certain historical and cultural context.

The individual parts that make up the bible all work \_\_\_\_\_ to tell the one big story, while each having a unique topography and character of their own.

**Cultural:**

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**Historical:**

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**Context:**

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"Context" isn't just a term that's used in Bible study. We talk about context clues in reading to help us understand words we may not know.

## NOTES:

### Studying with the right perspective:

We are occupying a \_\_\_\_\_ space but need to maintain an \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

Many of us try to look at “how the Bible applies to me today” or “adapting the Bible to our culture and context.” But that should not be the goal. The historical and cultural context in which any certain book of the bible was written is \_\_\_\_\_ for understanding it rightly.

“ **We live in a time when the Bible is largely regarded as a book for our own building up, through which the Holy Spirit will simply reveal truth to those willing to give it a few minutes’ attention a day.**

**-Jen Wilkin**



**To understand the Bible. You have to become an archaeologist and dig.**

### The process for digging:

This process, when we dig and work for the original meaning of Scripture, is called \_\_\_\_\_.

Exegesis \_\_\_\_\_ the meaning out of a text. Exegesis \_\_\_\_\_ a text by analyzing what the author intended to communicate. Exegesis is \_\_\_\_\_ reading.

## NOTES:

“ The word “exegesis” comes from a Greek term which means “to explain” or “to narrate” or “to show the way.” So in terms of biblical text, it’s “the process of careful analytical study of the Bible to produce useful interpretations of those passages.”

This involves asking questions of the text that might unearth new insights. However, it is clear that the goal of exegesis is “to know neither less nor more than the information actually contained in the passage. Exegesis . . . places no premium on speculation or inventiveness” and “novelty in interpretation is not prized.”

Simply put, exegesis is not about discovering what we think a text means (or want it to mean) but what the biblical author meant. It’s concerned with intentionality—what the author intended his original readers to understand.

*-Logos*

The opposite of exegesis is \_\_\_\_\_.



“A concern for the reverent and accurate interpretation of God’s word functions simultaneously as both a necessary speed bump that keeps us from running roughshod over the text and a guard rail protecting us from veering off into interpretations of the text that make it say what we want.”  
*-Justin Taylor*



## NOTES:

“ While exegesis means digging into the text to pull out the meaning, eisegesis, *reads meaning into a text that isn't there*. Students of the Bible must perform solid exegesis, not eisegesis, because, as Peter J. Leithart says, “We don't want to twist Scripture into saying something that it doesn't actually say.”

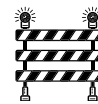
-Logos

Each of us is a product of the time and culture in which we live, and as such, we bring certain \_\_\_\_\_ to our reading of Scripture.

“ Exegesis pushes on the boundaries of our personal understanding of culture and history, asking us to go back to the time that a text was written and hear it with the ears of its original hearers. Exegesis says, “Before you can hear it with your ears, hear it with theirs. Before you can understand it today, understand it back then.”

-Jen Wilkin

Exegesis gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ we need to properly interpret the Scriptures.



To understand the Bible. You have to become an archaeologist and dig.



Summary:

We need the proper perspective in order to understand the Bible.

Exegesis gives us the perspective we need to properly interpret the Scriptures.

Exegesis gives us perspective by asking five basic questions of any text:

1. Who wrote it?
2. When was it written?
3. To whom was it written?
4. In what style was it written?
5. Why was it written?

**HOMEWORK AND REFLECTION:  
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.**

1. Read Daniel 6. Write a summary of where you see the big story themes (creation, fall, redemption, restoration) in the well-known story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. Remember, not every bible story has every theme reflected in it. Also remember this is a skill that takes time and practice to develop. If this doesn't come naturally or quickly to you, then don't be discouraged! We'll continue to practice throughout the course of class.

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2. What does it mean for you to have an understanding or sense of your own small place in history? How does this perspective help us when studying the bible?

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3. In *Women of the Word*, Jen Wilkin says, “The message of the bible transcends its original audience, but it cannot be severed from its original audience.” What do you think she means by that?

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4. In your own words, write what it means to read a book of the bible while keeping in mind the cultural and historical context.

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5. Why does it matter to read the bible exegetically or using exegesis? How does this help us avoid the unhelpful bible reading approaches we’ve discussed before?

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## WEEK: FIVE

### TOPIC: GETTING SPECIFIC PART 2- EXEGESIS CONTINUED

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

“is a book about God, written to people who lived in the past, and also written to us.”

## NOTES:

### Remember...

in studying with perspective, we want to see how each \_\_\_\_\_ part of Scripture tells its own story, teaching us about God, within a certain historical and cultural context.

“ **I want to know one thing- the way to heaven, how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He has written it down in a book. O give me that \_\_\_\_\_ at any price, give me the Book of God.**  
-John Wesley

Exegesis draws the \_\_\_\_\_ out of a text. Exegesis interprets a text by analyzing what the author intended to communicate. Exegesis is \_\_\_\_\_ reading.

## NOTES:

### The five questions of exegesis:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote it?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was it written?
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ was it written?
4. In \_\_\_\_\_ style was it written?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was it written?



In a few weeks, we'll cover a similar method with questions that are a little different.

“ Exegesis that does not sooner or later touch our emotions, and through us, the emotions of others, is ultimately a failure because it does not mediate the effect which the Scripture ought to have.

-John Piper (*Biblical Exegesis*)

In studying with \_\_\_\_\_ we keep in mind the overall purpose of Scripture.

Calling the bible \_\_\_\_\_ is simply acknowledging that it communicates a message through a human author to a human audience in the form of words.



If a rich uncle left his huge inheritance to the person named in his will, and you knew that you were that person, you would be very zealous to see that the court interpreted his will in a way consistent with the author's intended meaning. Or if you were desperately sick with a terminal disease, and you heard of a doctor who knew the cure, and he wrote down a health regimen for you, you would do everything in your power to understand what the doctor meant in his health regimen and do whatever the regimen called for. How much more should we, like Wesley, regard the Word of God to be precious and most worthy of study!

-John Piper

## NOTES:

### Who wrote it?

Knowing who wrote something helps us understand why a text is written one way and not another, and it helps us judge the credibility of what was written. Now, with the bible, we aren't worrying about credibility. But we do sometimes forget to think about the \_\_\_\_\_ element of biblical authorship: God chose a particular person to write a particular book.

### When was it written?

We use the dating of a book to help us understand how the book would have been read by its original audience, how it speaks uniquely to their moment in \_\_\_\_\_, what other books of the bible are its contemporaries, and where it fits in the big story. Not all books are able to be dated accurately but many are.

In some cases (like the book of \_\_\_\_\_) the date a commentator chooses as most accurate can heavily influence his or her interpretation of the text.

### To whom was it written?

Every book of the bible was written to a specific audience who lived in the \_\_\_\_\_.

A text \_\_\_\_\_ mean what it never could have meant to its author or his or her readers.

"The bible is a book about God, written to people who lived in the past and \_\_\_\_\_ written to us."



*"I've failed over and over again in my life, and that is why I succeed."*

Who said it?

- A. Michael Scott
- B. Michael Jordan

How does knowing who said it affect how we receive it?

## NOTES:

### In what style was it written?

Each book of the bible uses one or more \_\_\_\_\_ genres to communicate its message. Our ability to accurately interpret and apply a text depends on how well we understand the nuances and subtleties of each of these genres. Each genre uses language in different ways.

*Historical narrative*- uses language to give factual \_\_\_\_\_ of events. These are intended to be read \_\_\_\_\_.

*Parables/storytelling*- uses carefully crafted characters and settings to teach a \_\_\_\_\_ or illustrate a point.

*Law codes*- were recorded as \_\_\_\_\_ for governing authorities.

*Poetry*- uses language symbolically and metaphorically to \_\_\_\_\_ word pictures.

*Wisdom Literature*- uses language to communicate \_\_\_\_\_ that are generally true though not universally true.

*Prophecy*- uses language in \_\_\_\_\_ ways. Placing a prophecy in its historical and cultural context further clarifies its use of language.

## NOTES:

### Why was it written?

We can identify why a book was written by considering its major themes and \_\_\_\_\_ ideas in light of its original audience and its historical and cultural context. Knowing the purpose for which a text was written guards us from reading it solely for our own purposes.

### Example with the book of Genesis:

Who wrote it? Authorship is attributed to \_\_\_\_\_, Israel's deliverer, law-giver, judge. Probably used existing oral and written sources to write it.

When was it written? Sometime around \_\_\_\_\_ BC, during the forty-year period of wandering in the desert.

To whom was it written? To the \_\_\_\_\_ who were led out of Egypt, during their time in the desert.

In what style was it written? Generally, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Some poetry and prophecy.

Why was it written? To give the nation of Israel a \_\_\_\_\_ and a rule of life as they enter Canaan. To \_\_\_\_\_ them of their past and prepare them for their future.



**"Believe it or not, we do not have to attend seminary to learn how to conduct exegesis of a text. We were probably taught the skills needed in middle school or high school. Part of demystifying bible study is recognizing that basic principles of literary interpretation are applicable to all books, the Bible included."  
-Jen Wilkin**



## NOTES:

It's good to consult more than one \_\_\_\_\_ for answers to the five questions. Different scholars answer them different ways, and not all scholars have the same theological vantage point.

Exegesis gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ we need to properly interpret the Scriptures.

Once you've \_\_\_\_\_ the answers to the five archaeological questions, you are ready to begin the process of learning the text, methodically working to bring ancient treasures into modern contexts.



**Summary:**  
Exegesis gives us perspective by asking five basic questions of any text:

1. Who wrote it?
2. When was it written?
3. To whom was it written?
4. In what style was it written?
5. Why was it written?

The aim of these isn't just academic or intellectual in nature, this work in learning and studying the Scriptures should result in our affections being stirred for God, an increase in obedience to his Word, and it should result in praise to God from us for who he is and what he has done and for teaching us of that through his Word.

**HOMEWORK AND REFLECTION:  
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.**

1. Which genre(s) of literature do you find the most interesting to read? Which one(s) do you find most challenging to read? How might knowing this affect your bible reading?

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2. What is the difference between using a tool like a study Bible to help with getting answers to these five questions and the "Snacking/Crumbs from the Table" unhelpful bible reading approach we discussed during week 2 of our class?

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3. Using a reliable resource like a study bible, answer the following questions about the gospel of Luke:

·Who wrote it?

·When was it written?

·To whom was it written?

·In what style was it written?

·Why was it written?

*If you hit any roadblocks with this over the week, please email me with any questions!  
Chassidy@C3Rowlett.com*

## WEEK: SIX

### TOPIC: BUILDING A PROCESS PART 1 - PATIENCE AND COMPREHENSION

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

"does not want to be packaged neatly into only 365-day increments...it wants to stretch your understanding. It wants you to stop and think. It wants to show you the beauty of the reign and rule of God one passage at a time, one day at a time, across your whole lifetime."

## NOTES:

### Bible study takes...

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

*What is something you're thankful that you stuck with?*

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## NOTES:

Sound Bible study is rooted in a \_\_\_\_\_ of delayed gratification.



**The world we live in and what we hear from our culture doesn't help. We are constantly bombarded with ideas of how to make things simpler and easier and faster.**

Gaining bible literacy requires allowing our study to have a \_\_\_\_\_ effect- across weeks, months, years- so that the interrelation of one part of Scripture to another reveals itself slowly and gracefully.

The Bible does not want to be packaged neatly into only 365-day increments. It doesn't want to be reduced to action points or identity statements. It wants to stretch your \_\_\_\_\_. It wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It wants to show you of the beauty of the reign and rule of God one \_\_\_\_\_ at a time, one \_\_\_\_\_ at a time, across your whole \_\_\_\_\_

### Patience:

Because learning the Bible is a discipline, we need \_\_\_\_\_ in our study. If we give into impatience with the learning process...

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**“ Could it be that feeling lost is one way God humbles us when we come to his Word, knowing that in due time he will exalt our understanding? ”**

Embracing the feeling of not knowing and understanding actually puts us in a \_\_\_\_\_ position to learn and grow.

## NOTES:

The alternative is we come to the text thinking we already know \_\_\_\_\_ it says, and then we walk away not having learned anything at all.

Viewing each interaction with Scripture as making \_\_\_\_\_ into a savings account is helpful for us.

We need patience in studying, but we also need patience with \_\_\_\_\_.

*The key is to give him what you \_\_\_\_\_.*



**It's been said that we overestimate what we can accomplish in one year, and underestimate what we can accomplish in ten.**

## Process:

There are three distinct stages of understanding the Scriptures:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Comprehension* ("What does it \_\_\_\_\_?") - seeks to purposefully discover what the original author intended me to \_\_\_\_\_ or ask.

A good builder uses \_\_\_\_\_. What are the tools we can use to begin to build comprehension of a passage?

## NOTES:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ copy of the text - The more you interact with the text, the more colors you use (at least 3) the more you'll remember and understand what you've read.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ reading - We should read the text as many times as we need to. Shorter books we could read through the whole book each week. Longer books we could read through the whole book 2 or 3 times before we move on to the next steps.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - After your first read-through (to get a general idea of the text), begin marking it on those next readings to get a better feel for what it says.
  - a. Look for \_\_\_\_\_ words, phrases, or ideas.
  - b. Notice particular \_\_\_\_\_ of God that are highlighted or celebrated. Write about those in the margins.
  - c. Look for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Are there \_\_\_\_\_ you don't understand? Mark them so you can look up a definition for them.
  - e. Are there important \_\_\_\_\_ words (If/then statements, therefore, likewise, but, because, in the same way)? Draw arrows to connect the two statements together.
  - f. Is an idea \_\_\_\_\_? Write your question in the margins.
4. An English \_\_\_\_\_ - Look up unfamiliar words, or even familiar words that need closer examination. (*Note- often times you'll need to scroll down and check out the "archaic" definition.*)
5. Other translations of the \_\_\_\_\_ - Reading a passage in more than one translation can expand your understanding of its meaning.



**Repetition is the mother of all learning.**

## NOTES:

6. \_\_\_\_\_ - When we attempt to outline, we acknowledge that the original author wrote with a purpose in mind, and we try to identify that purpose.

Proper \_\_\_\_\_ is what enables proper interpretation and application.



**Summary:**  
Sound Bible study takes patience and a process. The first step in the process is *comprehension*. Our aim in comprehension is to understand what the passage is saying.



## **HOMEWORK AND REFLECTION: ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.**

1. Using a reliable resource like a study bible, answer the following questions about Colossians:

·Who wrote it?

·When was it written?

·To whom was it written?

·In what style was it written?

·Why was it written?

2. After answering the above information, use the Colossians printout you received in class to begin the first stage of bible study: Comprehension. Over the course of this week, read Colossians two times. If that sounds overwhelming, take heart! It's only 4 chapters!

During the first reading you are simply getting a general overview of the book and becoming familiar with its content. During the second reading, begin annotating or marking the text.

Remember the six things we discussed regarding annotation: (1) Look for repeated words, phrases, or ideas (2) Notice particular attributes of God that are highlighted or celebrated (3) Look for lists and number them (4) Identify words you don't know and write down the meanings in the margin (5) Identify transitional words and the ideas they connect (6) Write down questions in the margin about confusing things.

If the thought of looking for all of those things is overwhelming, just choose one thing and begin marking when you see that. For example, maybe you just mark the repeated words, or perhaps you just look out for words you don't know, and you write those definitions in the margin.

This may be uncomfortable. This may be hard work. That is okay. Knowing God through his word is a worthwhile pursuit. May our study of God (theology) result in worship of God (doxology) in us this week as we study Colossians!

(See next page for Colossians text)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will,(A) and Timothy(B)  
our brother:

2 To the saints in Christ at Colossae, who are faithful brothers and  
sisters.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.[a]

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when  
we pray for you, 4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus  
and of the love you have for all the saints 5 because of the hope  
reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope  
in the word of truth,(C) the gospel 6 that has come to you. It is  
bearing fruit(D) and growing all over the world,(E) just as it has  
among you since the day you heard it and came to truly  
appreciate(F) God's grace.[b](G) 7 You learned this from Epaphras,  
(H) our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of  
Christ(I) on your[c] behalf, 8 and he has told us about your love in  
the Spirit.(J)

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't  
stopped praying for you. We are asking(K) that you may be filled  
with the knowledge(L) of his will(M) in all wisdom and spiritual  
understanding,[d] 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully  
pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work(N) and growing in  
the knowledge of God,(O) 11 being strengthened(P) with all power,  
(Q) according to his glorious(R) might, so that you may have great  
endurance and patience, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father,  
who has enabled you[e] to share in the saints' inheritance in the  
light.(S) 13 He has rescued(T) us from the domain of darkness and  
transferred us into the kingdom(U) of the Son(V) he loves.(W) 14 In  
him we have redemption,[f] the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God,(X)  
the firstborn over all creation.(Y)

16 For everything was created by him,(Z)  
in heaven and on earth,  
the visible and the invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions  
or rulers or authorities—  
all things have been created through him and for him.(AA)

17 He is before all things,(AB)  
and by him all things(AC) hold together.

18 He is also the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,(AD)  
the firstborn from the dead,(AE)  
so that he might come to have  
first place in everything.

19 For God was pleased to have  
all his fullness(AF) dwell in him,(AG)

20 and through him to reconcile  
everything to himself,  
whether things on earth or things in heaven,  
by making peace(AH)  
through his blood,(AI) shed on the cross.[g](AJ)

21 Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in  
your evil actions. 22 But now he has reconciled you by his physical body  
through his death,(AK) to present you holy, faultless,(AL) and blameless  
before him(AM)— 23 if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the  
faith(AN) and are not shifted away from the hope(AO) of the gospel that  
you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation(AP) under  
heaven,(AQ) and I, Paul,(AR) have become a servant of it.

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings(AS) for you, and I am completing in my  
flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body,(AT) that is, the

church. 25 I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ(AU) in you, the hope(AV) of glory. 28 We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 I labor for this, striving(AW) with his strength that works powerfully in me.(AX)

### **Footnotes (Chapter 1)**

- a 1:2 Other mss add and the Lord Jesus Christ
- b 1:6 Or and truly recognized God's grace
- c 1:7 Other mss read our
- d 1:9 Or all spiritual wisdom and understanding
- e 1:12 Other mss read us
- f 1:14 Other mss add through his blood
- g 1:20 Other mss add through him

### **Cross references (Chapter 1)**

- A 1:1 : 1Co 1:1; 2Co 1:1; Eph 1:1; 2Tm 1:1
- B 1:1 : Ac 16:1; 1Tm 1:2
- C 1:5 : Ps 119:142; Jn 14:6; 2Co 11:10; Eph 1:13; 2Tm 2:15; 3Jn 3
- D 1:6 : Mk 4:8
- E 1:6 : Mt 13:38; 24:14; Rm 3:6; 2Pt 2:20
- F 1:6 : 2Th 2:10
- G 1:6 : 2Pt 3:18
- H 1:7 : Col 4:12; Phm 23
- I 1:7 : Mt 1:17; Eph 5:2
- J 1:8 : Ps 51:11; Jn 1:33; Ac 2:4; Rm 8:9; Ti 3:5; Rv 1:10; 3:22

K 1:9 : Jn 14:13; Jms 1:5  
L 1:9 : Pr 2:6; Col 3:10  
M 1:9 : Eph 1:9  
N 1:10 : 2Co 9:8; Gl 3:10  
O 1:10 : Pr 2:6; Jn 17:3; 2Pt 1:2; 1Jn 4:8  
P 1:11 : Php 4:13  
Q 1:11 : Ac 4:33; 2Co 13:4  
R 1:11 : Lk 9:32; Jn 17:24; 2Co 3:18; 2Pt 3:18  
S 1:12 : Ps 36:9; Jn 12:46  
T 1:13 : Mt 27:43  
U 1:13 : Mt 3:2; Mk 1:15; Ac 20:25  
V 1:13 : Jn 5:19; Heb 1:2  
W 1:13 : Mt 3:17; Jn 3:16; 15:10; 17:26; 1Jn 4:16  
X 1:15 : Php 2:6  
Y 1:15 : Jn 1:3; Rv 3:14  
Z 1:16 : Gn 1:1; Mk 13:19  
AA 1:16 : Jn 1:3; Rm 11:36; 1Co 8:6; Eph 1:10,21  
BB 1:17 : Jn 1:1-2; 8:58; Heb 1:2-3  
CC 1:17 : Ps 104:24  
DD 1:18 : Gn 1:1; Mk 1:1; Jn 1:1; Ac 26:4  
EE 1:18 : Ac 26:23; 1Co 15:20,23; Rv 1:5  
FF 1:19 : Ps 72:19; Is 6:3; Jr 23:24; Ezk 43:5; 44:4; Jn 1:14,16; Eph 3:19; Php 2:6; Col 2:9  
GG 1:19 : Dt 12:5  
HH 1:20 : Ac 7:26; Eph 2:14  
II 1:20 : Heb 9:12  
JJ 1:20 : Lk 9:23; 23:26  
KK 1:22 : Php 2:8  
LL 1:22 : Jd 24  
MM 1:22 : 2Co 4:14  
NN 1:23 : Gl 2:16; Jd 3  
OO 1:23 : 1Th 1:3  
PP 1:23 : Rv 3:14

QQ 1:23 : Rm 10:18; Eph 6:9

RR 1:23 : Ac 13:9

SS 1:24 : 2Co 1:4; Php 1:29; 3:10

TT 1:24 : Eph 4:4

UU 1:27 : Col 2:2

VV 1:27 : 1Th 1:3

WW 1:29 : Jd 3

XX 1:29 : 1Co 15:10

**2** For I want you to know how greatly I am struggling(A) for you, for those in Laodicea,(B) and for all who have not seen me in person. **2** I want their hearts to be encouraged(C) and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery(D)—Christ.[a](E) **3** In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom(F) and knowledge.(G)

**4** I am saying this so that no one will deceive you with arguments that sound reasonable. **5** For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit,(H) rejoicing to see how well ordered you are and the strength of your faith in Christ.

**6** So then, just as you have received(I) Christ Jesus as Lord,(J) continue to walk in him, **7** being rooted and built up in him(K) and established in the faith, just as you were taught,(L) and overflowing with gratitude.

**8** Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition,(M) based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.(N) **9** For the entire fullness(O) of God's nature dwells bodily[b] in Christ, **10** and you have been filled by him, who is the head(P) over every ruler and authority. **11** You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh,(Q) in the circumcision of Christ,(R) **12** when you were buried with him(S) in baptism, in which you were also raised with him(T) through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.(U) **13** And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. **14** He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.(V) **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly;



he triumphed over them in him.[c](W)

16 Therefore, don't let anyone judge(X) you in regard to food and drink(Y) or in the matter of a festival or a new moon(Z) or a Sabbath day.[d] 17 These are a shadow(AA) of what was to come;(AB) the substance is[e] Christ.(AC) 18 Let no one condemn[f] you(AD) by delighting in ascetic practices(AE) and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm. Such people are inflated(AF) by empty notions of their unspiritual[g] mind. 19 He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body,(AG) nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with growth from God. 20 If you died with Christ(AH) to the elements of this world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations: 21 "Don't handle, don't taste, don't touch"? 22 All these regulations refer to what is destined to perish by being used up; they are human commands and doctrines. 23 Although these have a reputation for wisdom(AI) by promoting self-made religion, false humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value in curbing self-indulgence.[h](AJ)

### **Footnotes (Chapter 2)**

- a 2:2 Other mss read mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ; other ms variations exist on this v.
- b 2:9 Or nature lives in a human body
- c 2:15 Or them through it
- d 2:16 Or or sabbaths
- e 2:17 Or substance belongs to
- f 2:18 Or disqualify
- g 2:18 Lit fleshly
- h 2:23 Lit value against indulgence of the flesh

## **Cross references (Chapter 2)**

- A 2:1 : 2Tm 4:7
- B 2:1 : Col 4:13-16; Rv 1:11; 3:14
- C 2:2 : Lk 16:25; Col 4:8
- D 2:2 : Php 3:8
- E 2:2 : Col 1:27
- F 2:3 : Pr 3:19; Is 11:2; 45:3; Jr 23:5; Ac 7:22; 1Co 1:21
- G 2:3 : 1Co 14:6
- H 2:5 : Ps 51:12; 1Th 2:17
- I 2:6 : Jd 3
- J 2:6 : Eph 3:11
- K 2:7 : Eph 2:20
- L 2:7 : Eph 4:21; Heb 13:9
- M 2:8 : Mk 7:3
- N 2:8 : 1Tm 6:20
- O 2:9 : Php 2:6; Col 1:19
- P 2:10 : 1Co 11:3; Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23
- Q 2:11 : Col 1:22; 3:9
- R 2:11 : Mt 1:17; Eph 5:2
- S 2:12 : Rm 6:4
- T 2:12 : Eph 2:6; Col 3:1
- U 2:12 : Mt 17:9; Jn 5:25; 20:9; 21:14; Ac 2:24
- V 2:14 : Lk 9:23; 23:26
- W 2:15 : Lk 10:18; Jn 12:31; 16:11; Eph 6:12; Heb 2:14
- X 2:16 : Lk 6:37
- Y 2:16 : Jn 6:55; Rm 14:3,17; 1Co 8:4; Heb 9:10
- Z 2:16 : Ps 81:3
- AA 2:17 : Heb 8:5; 10:1
- BB 2:17 : Rm 8:38
- CC 2:17 : Gl 3:24; 5:2
- DD 2:18 : 1Co 9:24; Php 3:14
- EE 2:18 : Col 3:12
- FF 2:18 : 1Co 4:6

GG 2:19 : 1Co 6:13; Eph 4:4

HH 2:20 : Rm 6:8; 1Pt 2:24

II 2:23 : Ac 7:22

JJ 2:23 : 1Tm 4:8

**3** So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.(A) 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.(B) 3 For you died,(C) and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, (D) then you also will appear with him in glory.(E) 5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity,(F) lust,(G) evil desire, and greed,(H) which is idolatry.(I) 6 Because of these, God's wrath(J) is coming upon the disobedient,[b] 7 and you once walked in these things when you were living(K) in them. 8 But now, put away(L) all the following: anger,(M) wrath,(N) malice,(O) slander,(P) and filthy language from your mouth. (Q) 9 Do not lie(R) to one another, since you have put off(S) the old self(T) with its practices 10 and have put on(U) the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your[c] Creator.(V) 11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.(W) 12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved,(X) put on compassion, kindness,(Y) humility,(Z) gentleness,(AA) and patience, (AB) 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.(AC) 14 Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called(AD) in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,[d] singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name(AE) of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.  
 (AF) 19 Husbands,(AG) love your wives(AH) and don't be bitter(AI)  
 toward them. 20 Children,(AJ) obey your parents in everything, for this  
 pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers,(AK) do not exasperate(AL) your children,  
 so that they won't become discouraged. 22 Slaves, obey your  
 human(AM) masters in everything. Don't work only while being  
 watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the  
 Lord.(AN) 23 Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done  
 for the Lord and not for people,(AO) 24 knowing that you will receive  
 the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.  
 25 For the wrongdoer(AP) will be paid back for whatever wrong he has  
 done, and there is no favoritism.

### **Footnotes (Chapter 3)**

- a 3:4 Other mss read our
- b 3:6 Other mss omit upon the disobedient
- c 3:10 Lit his
- d 3:16 Or and songs prompted by the Spirit

### **Cross references (Chapter 3)**

- A 3:1 : Heb 10:12
- B 3:2 : Php 3:19
- C 3:3 : Rm 6:8
- D 3:4 : 2Co 4:11; 1Jn 1:2; 2:28
- E 3:4 : Lk 9:32; Jn 17:24; 2Co 3:18; 2Pt 3:18
- F 3:5 : 1Th 4:3,7
- G 3:5 : Rm 1:26; 1Th 4:5
- H 3:5 : Eph 5:3
- I 3:5 : 1Co 10:14; Gl 5:20; 1Pt 4:3
- J 3:6 : Jms 1:19; Rv 6:16
- K 3:7 : Lk 15:13; Rm 6:2

L 3:8 : Rm 13:12  
M 3:8 : Jms 1:19  
N 3:8 : Rv 14:19  
O 3:8 : 1Co 14:20  
P 3:8 : Jn 10:33; Rv 13:6  
Q 3:8 : Eph 4:22-31  
R 3:9 : Lv 19:11; 1Tm 2:7  
S 3:9 : Col 2:15  
T 3:9 : Eph 4:22  
U 3:10 : Pr 31:25  
V 3:10 : Mk 13:19; Jn 1:3; Rv 3:14  
W 3:11 : Eph 1:23  
X 3:12 : Jn 3:16; 2Th 2:13; Rv 12:11  
Y 3:12 : 2Co 6:6  
Z 3:12 : Ac 20:19; Eph 4:2; Php 2:3; Col 2:18,23; 1Pt 5:5  
AA 3:12 : Jms 3:13  
BB 3:12 : 2Tm 3:10  
CC 3:13 : 2Co 2:7,10; 12:13; Eph 4:32  
DD 3:15 : Jn 14:27; 1Co 7:15; Php 4:7  
EE 3:17 : Jn 14:13; Php 2:10  
FF 3:18-4:1 : Eph 5:22-6:9  
GG 3:19 : 1Pt 3:1  
HH 3:19 : Eph 5:25; 1Pt 3:1  
II 3:19 : Rv 8:11; 10:9-10  
JJ 3:20 : Gn 3:16; Lv 10:14; Dt 31:12; Ps 37:25; Pr 20:7; Lk 1:7; Ac 2:39; Heb 2:13  
KK 3:21 : Ps 103:13; Eph 6:4; Heb 11:23  
LL 3:21 : 2Co 9:2  
MM 3:22 : Rm 1:3; 4:1; 8:4-5,12-13; 9:3,5; 1Co 1:26; 10:18; 2Co 1:17; 5:16; 10:2-3; 11:18; Gl  
4:23,29; Eph 6:5  
NN 3:22 : Pr 1:7; Rv 14:7  
OO 3:23 : Eph 6:7  
PP 3:25 : Rv 2:11

4 Masters,(A) deal with your slaves justly and fairly, since you know that you too have a Master in heaven.

2 Devote yourselves(B) to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door(C) to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ,(D) for which I am in chains,(E) 4 so that I may make it known as I should. 5 Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time.(F) 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,(G) so that you may know how you should answer each person.(H)

7 Tychicus,(I) our dearly loved brother, faithful(J) minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are[a] and so that he may encourage(K) your hearts.(L) 9 He is coming with Onesimus,(M) a faithful and dearly loved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greetings, as does Mark,(N) Barnabas's(O) cousin (concerning whom you have received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and so does Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcised are my coworkers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras,(P) who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling(Q) for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured[b] in everything God wills.(R) 13 For I testify about him that he works hard[c](S) for you, for those in Laodicea,(T) and for those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke, the dearly loved physician, and Demas(U) send you greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters in

Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her home.(V) 16 After this letter has been read at your gathering, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And tell Archippus.(W) "Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it."(X)

18 I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains.(Y) Grace be with you.[d](Z)

#### **Footnotes (Chapter 4)**

- a 4:8 Other mss read that he may know how you are
- b 4:12 Other mss read and complete
- c 4:13 Other mss read he has a great zeal
- d 4:18 Other mss add Amen.

#### **Cross references (Chapter 4)**

- A 4:1 : Col 3:22
- B 4:2 : Rm 12:12
- C 4:3 : Ac 14:27; 1Co 16:9; 2Co 2:12
- D 4:3 : 1Co 2:7; Eph 3:4; 5:2
- E 4:3 : Ac 27:2; 28:16,30; Eph 6:18-20
- F 4:5 : Eph 5:15-17
- G 4:6 : Mk 9:50; Lk 14:34
- H 4:6 : 1Pt 3:15
- I 4:7 : Ac 20:4; Ti 3:12
- J 4:7 : Nm 23:19
- K 4:8 : Lk 16:25
- L 4:8 : Eph 6:21-22; Col 2:2
- M 4:9 : Phm 10,16
- N 4:10 : Phm 24
- O 4:10 : Ac 4:36
- P 4:12 : Col 1:7; Phm 23



Q 4:12 : Jd 3  
R 4:12 : Gl 1:4; Eph 1:9  
S 4:13 : Jd 3  
T 4:13 : Col 2:1  
U 4:14 : 2Tm 4:10  
V 4:15 : Ac 12:12; Rm 16:5  
W 4:17 : Phm 2  
X 4:17 : 2Tm 4:5  
Y 4:18 : Php 1:7  
Z 4:18 : 1Tm 6:21; 2Tm 4:22; Ti 3:15

## WEEK: SEVEN

### TOPIC: BUILDING A PROCESS PART 2 - INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

"is the best resource to go to first when interpreting the Bible."

## NOTES:

**Interpretation: "What does it mean?"**

**Interpretation is not "What does it mean to \_\_\_\_\_?"**

Interpreting is the ability to understand things about the text \_\_\_\_\_ what it may literally say.

### **Tools for interpretation:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

This is what the \_\_\_\_\_ says about the \_\_\_\_\_.

The best way to grasp what a biblical text says is by looking at other places in the bible that say the same thing or similar things.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

This is the ability to take something you've read and write it down in your \_\_\_\_\_ words.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

AFTER we've done these things and worked hard to glean our own interpretation, now we can \_\_\_\_\_ study bibles and commentaries and all those other helpful resources.

## **HOMEWORK AND REFLECTION: ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.**

1. Read Colossians again. This will help remind us of the big picture of the epistle.

2. We spent time last week and in class building our comprehension of Colossians. Spend time this week focusing on interpretation of chapter one of Colossians. Take notes about your interpretations! You can use the lined spaces provided behind this page or your own personal journal or notebook.

- Step 1 Consult the cross-references. It's not necessary for you to read every cross-reference for Colossians 1, but reading as many of these as needed (or as you're able!) will help provide sound interpretation. Remember, the cross-references show us what the bible says about the bible. They help us see repeated themes, ideas, events, etc., across various books of the bible. Write down the cross-references you find most helpful to the interpretation of Colossians 1.
- Step 2 Paraphrase. You don't have to paraphrase all of chapter one, but portions you find confusing, challenging to understand, or even just very crucial to the overall message of the book would be helpful to paraphrase. This will force us to read very closely and look at the details in the passage.

3. After you've completed steps 1 and 2 of interpretation: consult a trustworthy, reliable outside source to add fullness to and inform that interpretation. Write down their observations and interpretations of the passage, and we'll discuss and compare those in class next week. Especially take note of their interpretation of Colossians 1:24.



## WEEK: EIGHT

### TOPIC: PRAYING AND APPLYING THE SCRIPTURES

# THE DISCIPLES' STUDY

Basics of Bible Study

## THE BIBLE

"is a book about God. When we try to apply a text to ourselves, we again need to remember that, as Jen Wilkin says, 'the knowledge of God and the knowledge of self always go hand in hand. There is no true knowledge of self apart from the knowledge of God.'"

## NOTES:

### Application: "How should it change me?"

After establishing what the text says and means, we are finally in a position to ask how it should \_\_\_\_\_ us. Application asks, "How should the text change me?"

“the knowledge of God and the knowledge of self always go \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. There is no true knowledge of self apart from the knowledge of God.  
-Jen Wilkin

We can learn how the text should change us by asking three questions:

1. What does this passage teach me about \_\_\_\_\_?
2. How does this aspect of God's character change my view of \_\_\_\_\_?
3. What should I \_\_\_\_\_ in response?

## NOTES:

“ This is a process for an \_\_\_\_\_, long-term \_\_\_\_\_ project with \_\_\_\_\_ benefits. Even if you are in a season of life that won't allow you to use all the tools of the process exhaustively, you can use them as far as your time does allow.”

We've discussed studying with \_\_\_\_\_ - keeping in mind the big purpose of the Scriptures. Telling the reign and rule of God through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration.

We've discussed studying with \_\_\_\_\_. Answering those 5 archaeological questions about the text to give us cultural and historical context.

We talked about studying with \_\_\_\_\_. Patience with ourselves, and patience with the Scriptures as we study.

We've talked about the \_\_\_\_\_. Moving through these stages of comprehension, interpretation, application.

The last P in our work towards sound bible study is \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

*[14] The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)*



**"Everyone and everything has been designed by God with limits, and it never works, never results in anything good, to attempt to live, minister, and lead outside the boundaries of the limits God has set."**  
-Paul David Tripp | *Lead*

## NOTES:

Prayer is the means by which we \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit to take up residence in our study time. Without prayer, our study is nothing but \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit. With prayer, it is a means of communing with the Lord.

Prayer is what changes our study from the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ to the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

Pray...

\_\_\_\_\_ your study.

\_\_\_\_\_ your study.

\_\_\_\_\_ your study.

**“ Learning the bible does not happen as a result of human effort alone. Like all aspects of our \_\_\_\_\_, it is the result of the Holy Spirit working in and through our efforts.**

## HOMWORK AND REFLECTION:

**FINISH *BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR BIBLE (CHAPTER 8 THROUGH THE END OF THE BOOK)* AND CONTINUE WORKING YOUR WAY THROUGH COLOSSIANS.**

## **Context: 5 Ws and H**

**WHO** wrote it and to whom are they writing?

**WHAT** was the world like when it was written (cultural norms, big events, and so on)?

**WHEN** did they write it?

**WHERE** was the author when he wrote it? Consider more than just his literal location- perhaps his position in the culture or the church.

**WHY** was it written? What was the purpose for writing it?

**HOW** was it written? What genre did the author write it in?



## **OBSERVATION**

D.T.R.

### **Definitions**

Original language dictionary

English language dictionary

### **Themes**

A theme is an idea that you see repeated.

### **Repetition**

Repetition is a word or phrase that is repeated.

## **INTERPRETATION**

S.G.C.

### **Scripture**

Cross references; asking, "When I read this, what other Scriptures come to mind?"

### **Gospel**

Remember the gospel when we read, and try to see how this teaches us about the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection

### **Curiosity**

Ask questions, think about what questions the text causes you to have, and chase down the answers.

## **APPLICATION**

How does this change the way I think and feel, or how should it change the way I think and feel?