

Lesson 4 - Completing a Book Survey

You did it! You completed a Book Survey for Paul's letter to the Philippian church. This act required a lot of work, learning new habits and skills, and perseverance to get it done. Celebrate the work you've accomplished. More importantly, praise God for what he revealed to you in the process. As you develop the practice of doing this with all your Bible study, those skills and insights will grow.

Let's summarize the steps of completing a book survey and highlight important reminders about the process.

- Read the book in its entirety in one setting. Do this several times over the course of a few days.
 - When possible, read a version without any section headings. Minimize the chapter and verse headings, but retain them for reference purposes.
- After you have read the book at least twice,
 - make a quick list of recurring themes, ideas, people, places, phrases, and words.
 - summarize the book.
- On third and subsequent reads:
 - Make note of all recurrences as you read along. Add chapter and verse references to each set of recurrences.
 - Pay attention to the organization of the ideas and themes in the text. Look for transition words and/or changes in ideas. Mark where you think paragraphs begin and end. Based on this work, make an outline of the book.
- After you have completed your outline, identify the structural relationships between and among the sections.
- For each of your recurrences and grammatical structures, create a list of questions that will enable you to explore its meaning.
- Throughout your reading, note important background information such as author, recipients, date it was written, the purpose for writing, summary and key verse of the book.