

## How to Study the Bible—1

**The Bible is the Word of God**  
**It is impossible to know God without knowing the Bible!!!!**

**Excited**—the Word of God is living! Active! Powerful!  
It will Speak to you! It Guides you! Protect you! Empowers you!  
Guards you against temptation! Renews your mind! Builds your faith.  
Shows you heavenly riches! Shows you God's promises! Gives you identity! Speaks absolute  
TRUTH and Truth Set free—Don't miss out

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## How to Study the Bible

### 1. Choose a translation you understand.

1. **Word-for-word translation:** KJV, Amplified, ESV, NASB, NJKV
2. **Thought for thought:** NIV, NLT REB
3. **Paraphrase:** Ex. the Message bible, the Passion bible

**What should we use?** One that you understand, I use the NJKV 1960,

### 2. Choose a Plan, time, and place. Be consistent if you miss one day don't miss 2.

Succesfull people do consistently what others do occasionally.

### 3. Understand the context.

- Context matters more than you can imagine—Understand ...  
**Who wrote it? — To whom was it written? —What is its purpose?**
- We can learn context with a study bible,(introductions, concordance) you version, bible websites (blue letter bible), commentaries

### 4. Read slowly and ask questions. (SPECK)

- Is there a **SIN** to be avoided?
- Is there a **PROMISE** to be claimed?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there something to **KNOW** about God?

### 5. Pray for God to speak to you, and apply what He shows you.

**(Pray)** à What do you want me to see—Say to me—Show me?

- There is a revelation of the Word of God that comes from God **Luke 24:45** *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*
- This is a good prayer to pray when we read the Bible
- Let me understand Lord

### 6. Where do I start?

- Gospels I would recommend Luke, finish with John, book of Acts
- James
- after I recommend the poetic books,
  - Psalms: will teach you how to pray
  - Proverbs: will teach you wisdom
- After I recommend the history of the Old Testament starting with Genesis
- A particular story or character like Jonh, David, Paul, Joshua, Gideon, Jabez
- Before you know it, you'll get familiar with the stories, characters, places, and events.

**Start w/ Jonah —James I**

**Jonah 3:10** Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

**Jonah 4:** But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" 4 Then the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. 6 And the Lord God prepared a [a]plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. 7 But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. 8 And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." 9 Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" 10 But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?"

- God called Jonah the first time and Jonah ran from God. Went on a ship, and the Lord provided a storm. Jonah told the sailors to throw me overboard
  - The storm was a provision of God
- He gets swallowed by a big fish that the **Lord provided**. What a powerful prayer that Jonah made inside the fish. He prayed the Word of God...He prays and repents, the Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah on the beach
- Jonah is forgiven and is back home, *Chillin' out, maxin', relaxin', all cool, And all shootin' some b-ball outside of the school (Fresh Prince of BelAire)*
- But God speaks to Jonah **a second time**
  - Thank God that He gives us a second chance
  - If we fail, he calls us back again and gives us so many second chances
  - Jonah preaches to Nineveh and they Repent
  - Never underestimate what the Word of God can do.

**Jonah 3:10** Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

- God forgave them
- Our God is merciful
- Jonah gets angry (*Hara. Kharaw*) *kindled, hot, furious Salty*
- He prays again, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.
- He knew that God would forgive Nineveh, and that's why he ran, to begin with
- Before we judge Jonah too much
  - He is in an argument with God because the Assyrians were ruthless and barbaric with the people of Israel, many even believed that Jonah may have lost family to the hands of the Assyrians, and Nineveh was the capital of Assyria

**Jonah shows us a problem that we may have sometimes**  
**I will do the Will of God- without the heart of God**

- God, I'll do what you're asking me, but I will not like it

- I'll do the right things with the wrong motives
- I'll go to church but I won't have time to serve,
- As long as the Cowboys aren't playing
- I'll go to church, but I'll be mean to everyone who doesn't think (vote) as I do
- I'll forgive but I won't forget
- I'll pray but I will only pray for my will

**It's entirely possible to do the will of God without the heart of the Father.  
We need to do the will of God... while having the Heart of God...**

- This is how angry Jonah is *Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!*
- So Jonah goes east of the city
- Many believe that this represents Jonah giving his back to God, that he was facing east not looking at the city at all but facing away from Jerusalem.. the temple... and God
- Waiting for destruction to come to Nineveh (he was demanding from God to destroy the city)
- He made himself a shelter

*And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.*

- Joana was grateful (*samah, Saw-makh*) to rejoice, rejoice arrogantly, rejoice religiously
- Jonah went from really angry to really happy but still waiting for God to destroy the city
- We can be really happy and still not align with the will of God
- We cannot let our emotions dictate the will of God in our lives
- We need the Word of God as a guide for our lives and filter our emotions through the Word of God
  - I feel!!!!..... what does the Word of God say?
- Sometimes the toughest moments are when God is working the most in our hearts, so those moments of difficulty, storms, trials, and difficult processes may dead center in the will of God
- In the process, our emotions will rise up and demand that we flip out. *We must Be still and know that He is God*
  - I've forgiven, and that gut-wrenching feeling to explode: Be still
  - Things didn't go my way at work I'm quitting: Be still
  - I'm called to the ministry I need it now: be still and get prepared, know your bible, go to bible school, and serve serve serve the Lord calls those who are serving
  - The Lord goes with the goers, but he will not sit with the sitters

*And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."*

God makes some very strange provisions for Jonah

God provided a storm, a fish, a plant, a worm, and an east wind

Some of these provisions didn't look, or feel like God's provision they probably felt like punishment.

But it was actually mercy

God is about to show Jonah Mercy

*"Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" 10 But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I*

not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”

No ending, did Jonah change his heart, or did Joanh die what happened did the worm eat him too (we'll ask Him when we get to heaven)

You cried over a plant, but you won't cry over those who do not know me

We may be like Jonah [Go into all the world and make disciples.](#)

We're not going, not praying, not helping, not serving, not giving

Jonah received mercy from God but rejected God's mission and purpose

We may do the same.

We want our will more than God's will (our prayers don't reflect God's will)

The Book of is about the mercy of God and Jonah points to Jesus

**Matthew 12:41** [The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.](#)

Jesus is greater than Jonah

Jonah ran from God > Jesus surrendered to God

Jonah wanted his will > Jesus said your will

Jonah refused sinners > Jesus loved sinners, ate with sinners, walked with sinners, and Died for sinners

Why: Jesus has the heart of God [for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.](#)

**We may be like Jonah** who is running from God, who may not have God's heart, and may be very emotional up and down.... Mountains, or the valley

**We may be like the sailors.** Maybe in the middle of a storm, and we're calling out to other gods. I'm here to tell you Call on Jesus **James 4:** [draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Jesus is the answer.....](#)

**We may be like the people of Nineveh.** Maybe we're hearing this message and are saying we need to seek God and repent

Actually out of Jonah (the prophet of God) the sailors, and the people of Nineveh. It was Jonah that needed the most help.

**God showed mercy to them and God will show mercy to Us**

**We can call on God** [for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.](#)