

How to Study the Bible—1

The Bible is the only reliable data about God
The Bible is the Word of God
It is impossible to know God without knowing the Bible

There is no greater way to get to know God's—Character/Nature/Goodness/Attributes/will/
promises/purpose/protection/blessings
Than reading reading the Bible

Yet most people don't read it—Some don't care for it—Doesn't apply/Waste of time.
Others try to read—they get confused—they get bored and give up.
The biggest probability is that you want to—Don't know how—Start?

1. (I did) **Gen—Ex—Lev** uffffff hard (Those Not laughing—Never read Lev) you can lose interest fast
2. **The Lucky Dip Method**—Open the Bible —Put a finger in the Bible—Speak to me, God.
Mathew 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

How to Study Bible

Jonah

I will charge you with coming to church not just today but next Sunday
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! It gives you identity! Speaks absolute TRUTH and Truth Set free....Don't miss out

We will look at how to study the Bible
At the end of the Day, you will have to open your bible

How to Study the Bible

1. **Choose a translation you understand.**
2. **Choose a consistent plan, time, and place to study**
3. **Understand the context.**
4. **Read slowly and ask questions.**
5. **Pray for God to speak to you and apply what he shows you.**
6. **Where do I start?**

1. **Choose a translation you understand.**

- There are over 3000 translations of the Bible
- Very difficult to translate Hebrew/Aramaic/Greek.
- All the translations are trying to communicate to us what was written in the original
- There are 3 kinds of translations (all translations fall into one of these 3)
 1. **Word-for-word translation:** KJV, Amplified, ESV, NASB, NJKV reading level 12th grade
 - **pro:** true to the original text
 - **Cons:** written in 1611, its a little harder to understand
 2. **Thought for thought:** the translator took the general basic idea of what a passage is saying and disregarded the actual word order and translated, that idea into the English

language, making it easy for us to understand. Ex. NIV, NLT REB reading level 8th grade

- **Pros:** is very easy to understand
 - **Cons:** some of the original text is watered down in an attempt to make it understandable
3. **Paraphrase:** which is not a translation (commentary) where the translators would take big chunks of the Bible and try to communicate the very basic idea or thought in a modern and updated language. Ex. the Message bible, the Passion bible Reading level 3rd grade
- **Pros:** very easy and interesting to read.
 - **Cons:** paraphrases disregard the meaning of individual words, and they take liberties to add all sorts of words to the text in an attempt to make it more readable and understandable. Leaving the interpretation up to the translators which makes it a kinda commentary

What should we use? One that you understand

I use the NJKV 1960 for my personal devotional and study.

I use the thought for thought, paraphrase, commentaries, and books as tools of study.

2. Choose a Plan time, a place, and a plan to study.

Chose a bible Consistent—Time/Place—Recommend Morning—Chair/Table — Paper—Digital (your version bible)

Pastor Mike's plan, is daily, if you miss one day don't miss 2.

Successful people do consistently what others do occasionally.

Start w/ Jonah — Context? (Billy Joke)

Who wrote it: there is no Author (many have disqualified Jonah as a true story, but he was a real prophet 2 Kings 14:23 Jesus also spoke of him)

To who: It's not directed to anyone it tells the story of Jonah on a specific assignment from God.

Main characters: the only name given in the book is “Jonah”. No one else is named in this book, the big fish, but the main character of the book is God

The theme is The Mercy of God

Overview: God calls Jonah > Jonah runs from God's assignment > a storm > overboard> gets swallowed by a big fish > Jonah repents > vomits> Jonah preaches> Nineveh repents > Jonah> Jonah gets mad > There's a vine that provides shade > The vine dies > Jonah gets mad again> God talks of His Mercy... the book doesn't have an ending.

The book of Jonah is a story that we can easily follow. Many believe that the questions that God asks Jonah about His mercy for his enemies God is asking us.

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” 3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

- God is a God that speaks
- God still speaks today: audibly, through dreams, and visions, but mostly through the Bible
- The Word of the Lord came to Jonah and the Word of the Lord is coming to you today

- Warning: what God speaks we may not want to do, we may not believe.
- God says to go to Nineveh and preach against it.
- Jonah did what most of us would do: he ran away from God

- Jonah plans to go 2500 miles in the opposite direction... Ninevah was only 500 miles away
- Amazingly, we would go to great lengths to run away from God when being obedient would be much easier

He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

- If we want to run from God, the devil will always provide a way
 - We talk about the provision of God well the devil will always provide a **ubber** if you want to run away from God

Why did Jonah run away?

- He hated the people from Ninevah: Israel. Assyria... Nineva. Capital of Assyria... the Assyrians were evil, barbaric
- The real reason was that Jonah knew that God was merciful and if he preached and Ninevah repented God would forgive them
- Jonah did not want God to forgive them

Jonah did something that we do quite often

he gave himself permission to not do what God told him to do

Not the right time... not the right people... I don't feel like it... it's not that bad....

Or the best one I'M MATURE ENOUGH I CAN MAKE THAT DECISION FOR GOD

4 But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten [b]the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

- The Lord sent a storm
 - Some people believe that all storms are sent by the devil... but some storms are sent by God... other storms are sent because of our disobedience or lack of wisdom...
 - Sometimes, the Lord may send a storm into our lives... but not to punish us because he hates us... but because he loves us... to guide us back into the purpose that He has for us
- The sailors were afraid... they started to pray to their own gods... funny when unbelievers pray lol
- The sailors didn't do anything wrong and found themselves in the middle of a storm that God had sent
 - The only thing they did was that they had Jonah in the boat
 - Some of us may be going through a storm because we have Jonah in the boat... **Jonah's got to Go** some, maybe dating Jonah... some, maybe hanging out with Jonah.... For some Jonah may be a sinful habit.. for some Jonah may be unforgiveness...
 - Some bad news: the storm will not cease until we get rid of Jonah "Hit the road Jonah"
 - Sometimes we are Jonah in the boat.....now there's a storm in our home/family we need to return to God
- Here's a big issue: Jonah disobeyed God, ran away from God, and was in a storm sent by God, and he was fast asleep. (Having a good sleep out cold, gone... REM sleep)
- He was in a very scary place, in a very dangerous place, e.g. Samson
- **Comfortable in his disobedience to the degree that he could sleep soundly**
- That is the most dangerous place we can get to as believers, becoming comfortable in disobedience, in sin, in unforgiveness, in hatred, in doing what we evaluate as good and not what God says

- Maybe some of us like Jonah have become comfortable in our compromise, in a sinful habit, in giving ourselves permission to do what we know is not right in the eyes of the Lord.....

If that is you, I have come to give you a very serious warning (not condemnation) but a loving warning

God will not let you get comfortable in that sin/ compromise/permission
 GOD IS CALLING YOU BACK (I'm speaking; I believe the Holy Spirit is convicting)

Why because you are HIS you belong to God

God sent a storm to the boat where Jonah was: was this judgment/punishment? No this was kindness

6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

9 So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

- Problem... He says **I fear God**.... But he's not obeying God
- That's the problem today many claim to be believers but they are not obeying God
- Is there an area of your life where we are giving ourselves permission to do what we want and not what God says
- This is what happened 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. 11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. 12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and [d]throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."
- God chose Jonah..... God called Jonah... Jonah ran away from God... God sent a storm... calling Jonah back
- Maybe you are here: God chose you... God called you.... And you're running away from God.. and now you're stuck in a storm
- Jonah a chosen, called, an anointed prophet of God: So far from God, lost hope, in a place he never thought he would be in, with no way out, doesn't care if he lives and says "It's **over**" **throw me into the sea**
- We will see that it wasn't over 17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows
 The storms for the men on the boat ceased and they feared the Lord and offered sacrifices unto the Lord

Maybe you are here... you don't know God... God is calling you to turn to Him
 Maybe you have known God but you have strayed away from God God is calling you back
 Maybe you know God, you, love God, and your serve God... but there's an area of your life where you need to turn back to God

Refuge/strength.. ever-present help in the time of need.. his name is a fortified tower... the righteous run to Him and are safe... gives strength to the weary... protects the weak... delivers us from all of our fears

He is full of compassion... heals the brokenhearted... heals the wounded....
He is generous.... Meets all of our needs according to His riches and glory

The devil has come to steal/kill/ and destroy but He has come to give Life and Life more abundant

There is no one like Him it doesn't matter how bad the storm is, He is the prince of peace

He is the King of Glory.

He is Jesus Christ of Nazareth

And He is calling us to turn to Him