

6 PRACTICAL TIPS ON HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

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 the Bible

Yet most people don't read it. Some don't care for it, to some it doesn't apply, to others is a waste of time.

Others try to read, but they get confused or bored and give up

The biggest probability is that you want to, but you do not know how or even where to start

1. (I did) **Gen—Ex—Lev** uffffff that was 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 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 text
- 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 commentary

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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: A time, a place, and a strategy

Time: Early morning, evening, right before bed,

Place: Desk, dinner table, bed, living room, work parking lot

Strategy: pick a reading plan, and sequence

Key: be consistent,

If you miss one day don't miss 2.

Succesfull people do consistently what others do occasionally.

3. Understand the context: Who wrote it? To whom was it written? What is its purpose?

- Context matters more than you can imagine
- The pastor was drinking wine today. (Context: it was communion Sunday, and it wasn't wine it was grape juice) chismoso!!! Context matters

The Bible is a library—Not a book.

The Bible is a Library

- A collection of 66 different books.
- Written in three languages.
- Across three continents.
- Over 1,500 years period of time
- By 40 different authors. (Shepperds/farmers/tentmakers/doctors/fishermen/priests/prophets/kings)
- It's a collection of poems, prophecies, letters, laws, stories, and biographies, written by people and inspired by God, **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [c]instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- The whole bible tells one unified story that **reveals to us** the Love of God, shows us our need for Jesus, and God's plan of Salvation
- One text that can sum up the general context of the Bible is **John 3:16**
- To be able to study, understand, and apply the Bible to our lives we must understand context
- We can learn context with a study bible (introductions, concordance, commentary) version, bible websites (blue letter bible), commentaries, YouTube "the Bible Project"

4. Read slowly and ask questions.

- We must read slowly, especially in the popular parts
- What does this say about God? What does this say to me?
- (SPECK) Jonah 1
 - **Is there a SIN to be avoided?** Jonah ran from God; do not run from God
 - **Is there a PROMISE to be claimed?** The Mercy of God, the storm was the mercy of God
 - **Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?** The sailors made vows to God after the storm stopped
 - **Is there a COMMAND to obey?** Be obedient to God
 - **Is there something to KNOW about God?** God will not let you go

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

- What do you want me to see? What do you want to say to me? What do you want to show me?
- God speaks through dreams, visions, audibly, **but most commonly through the Bible**

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- God can speak to you as you read the Bible, guide you, strengthen you, establish you, give you peace, minister to you, show great and mighty promises, confront you, comfort you, convict you, and call you to ministry.
- 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
- Before we read the Bible, we should ask the Lord to speak to us

6. Where do I start?

- Gospels I would recommend Luke first, Matthew, Mark, and finish with John, why? Because we need to know Jesus
- Then the Book of Acts, to know how the church started
- James: it is the most practical book to live out our faith
- 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

Be patient and be consistent, don't give up, keep reading

**Before you know it, you'll get familiar with the stories, characters, places, and events.
Furthermore, you'll begin to quote the bible, then you'll begin to meditate on it, and you'll
begin to filter your thoughts through the Bible**

The result will be we'll begin to live out the Word of God in our lives

**It is my prayer that the Lord may guide you, strengthen you, comfort you,
reveal to you heavenly promises and speak to you as you read the Bible**

Pastor Mike Gomez