

How to Study the Bible— 1

It is impossible to know God without knowing the Bible

No greater way to get to know God's— Character/Nature/Goodness/Attributes/will/promises/purpose/protection/blessings. Then reading his Word.

1. (I did) **Gen—Ex—Lev** à Done! (Those Not laughing— Never read Lev) you can lose interest
2. **The Lucky Dip Method**—Open—Put finger in Bible—Do says. **Mathew 19:21**
Matthew 5:29

**At the end of the Day, you will have to open your bible or app
And spend time reading**

- **Where do I start?**
- **Gospels, James, Acts, then start reading OT NT**

1. **Choose a translation you understand.**
2. **Choose a time, a place, and a plan 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.**

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
 - **Pros:** 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
 - **Pros:** is very easy to understand
 - **Cons:** some of the original text is watered down in an attempt to make it understandable
 3. **Paraphrase:** wich is really 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
 - **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 devotions and study.

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

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

Consistent—Time/Place—Recommend Morning—Chair/Table

Paper—Digital (you version Bible) —YV Plan—Through book—Devotion—YV

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

3. Understand the context.

- Context matters more than you can imagine—Understand ...
- 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 collection of 66 different books.
- Written in three languages.
- Across three continents.
- Over a 1500 year time period
- By 40 different authors. (Shep/farm/tent/dr/fish/priest/prophets/king)
- It's a collection of poems, prophecies, letters, laws, histories, and biographies, written by people and inspired by God, 2 Timothy 3:16
- telling one unified story that reveals to us the Love of God, God's plan of Salvation, shows us our need for Jesus, and teaches us to become like Him
- 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 the context

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), comentaries**

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)
 - **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) What do you want me to see—Say to me—Show me?

- God can speak to you as you read the Bible, can guide you, strengthen and establish you, can give you peace, can minister to you, show great and mighty promises, can confront you, can convict you, etc etc

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- 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

Start w/ Philemon—Context?

Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, **2** to [a]the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

- If you pick up a study bible, or commentary, or look on YVB
- Philemon was written by Paul (from a Roman prison) to a wealthy man named Philemon, who led a church in his home.
- Paul usually starts his letter “Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ” he doesn’t here
- It was written about Onesimus, a runaway slave who had stolen from Philemon.
- Onesimus met Paul in Rome and Paul led Onesimus to Christ.
- Paul’s purpose was to encourage Philemon to forgive Onesimus and accept him as a brother in Christ.

Big deal—Research—60M slaves Rome—Slave runs away.
Owner—Very least—Brand (F)—Fugitive—Beat/Kill.

Paul’s going to say, a guy who stole from you—Escaped.
Forgive—Receive and treat **Onesimus**—Slave—Equal.

Understand Context—**Paul’s** buttering up **Philemon**.

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, **5** hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, **6** that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in [b]you in Christ Jesus. **7** For we [c]have great [d]joy and [e]consolation in your love, because the [f]hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.

- Philemon—So loving, know to do right thing... Now we know context ...

Philemon 1:8 Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, **9** yet for love’s sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ— **10** I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten *while* in my chains,

- **Onesimus** stole from **Philemon**! Runs to Rome—Meets **Paul**.
- **Paul** led **Onesimus** (slave) to Christ—Now **Onesimus**
- Not slave—Son.

Philemon 1:11 who formerly unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

Onesimus' name—Useful/Profitable)

12 I am sending him [back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own [h]heart,
13 whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. **14** But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. **15** For perhaps he departed for a while for this *purpose*, that you might receive him forever, **16** no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Formerly — But now

- But Now—W/o—The Formerly!
- Something happened in between
- Onesimus met the one who could re-write his story
- **Instead of asking God “Why?” ask God “What?”**
 - What is God showing you?
 - Think back—How God used—Didn't Want—Useful—Good.
 - What does God want to show you?
 - Can't have a **But Now**—W/o—the **Formerly**!

God is writing your story as you speak!

- Formerly—Sick— **But now**—Been healed!
- Formerly—Addicted—**But now**—Becoming sober/clean!
- Formerly—Depressed/Anxious—**But Now**—Peace!
- Formerly marriage hanging—**But now**—Seeking God together
- Formerly suicidal— **But Now**— found life in Jesus Christ
- Formerly lost — **But now**—Found!

When will He rewrite your story?—As you read his Word.