

How to Study the Bible—2

It is impossible to know God, without knowing His Word

2 Tim 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.

According to the inspired Word of God—What is the Word?

- A sword that pierces. **Heb 4:12**
 - A light that shines. **Psalms 119:105**
 - A mirror that reveals. **James 1:23**
 - A path to purity. **Ps 119:9**
 - A light unto my feet **Ps 119:105**
 - A meal that nourishes. **1 Timothy 4:6**
 - A seed that reproduces. **1 Peter 1:23**
 - A consuming fire. **Jer 23:29**
 - A defense against temptation. **Ps 119:11**
 - The source of our faith. **Rom 10:17**
 - The truth that lives forever. **Isa 40:8**
- **The Bible is meant to transform us, not just inform us.**
 - **1 Corinthians 8:1** Knowledge [puffs up, but love edifies.
 - “The Bible should give us a bigger heart, not a bigger head.” Rick Warren

How to Study the Bible

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.

Philemon

- Philemon who **Wrote it?** Paul was the author.
- **To whom did Paul write the book of Philemon?** Paul wrote Philemon to Philemon.
- What do we know **Philemon?** Businessman—Paul led Christ—Church home—lives in Ephesus
- Who is it about? A slave named **Onesimus**—Stole from **Philemon** and escaped to Rome.
- In Rome **Onesimus** met **Paul** (Saved) FORMERLY useless BUT NOW useful
- **Purpose?** What’s Paul asking Philemon to do? Forgive Onesimus.

- **Is there a SIN to be avoided?** Stealing, unforgiveness, manipulation
- **Is there a PROMISE to be claimed?** Restoration—Intercession— forgiveness— humbleness
- **Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?** Paul intercedes for Onesimus, Onesimus is willing to go back to Philemon trusting God, Philemon is a great man of God.
- **Is there a COMMAND to obey?** Trust God regardless of how bad the scenario is. Forgiveness is not a choice for a believer
- **Is there something to KNOW about God?** I can see Jesus as our intercessor, Paul says I'll pay a debt I don't owe [18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay](#)
- If you use a concordance you will see that this passage will take you to **Isaiah 53:4** [Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our \[h\]sorrow;.....](#)
The debt we owed—Jesus paid—Whatever we needed
He provided.

Which person do you relate to most? (3 main char)

- **Paul—Who is taking a risk on someone.**
- **Onesimus—Who needs forgiveness?**
- **Philemon—Who's being called to forgive.**

Which one do you relate to?

If you read Philemon—3 different points of life—God can speak in 3 different ways.

- One time—More like —**Paul**—Taking a risk on someone. Maybe God has put a person in your life who needs your belief.
- Another time—**Onesimus**—U sin—Confess it—Forgive. Lost your temper—Lied to someone you love—Trapped porn addict.
 - Look up “Forgiveness from God—Concordance. **1 John 1:9** [If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.](#)
- Another time you can relate to **Philemon**—Someone hurt you—Betrayed—Forgive them.
 - Maybe you were betrayed, rejected, abandoned and quite honestly it may be a little hard to forgive especially when we are right, you have been hurt and maybe you deserve to be angry and even pay back
 - But then you look in the Bible and remember the context of Philemon. Onesimus stole—Ran—Philemon—had the **Right** brand F—Beat—Execute.
 - But Paul said—Don't **RECEIVE** him not as a slave but receive Him as a brother and forgive Him

Forgive? (How?) Search your concordance or in the Bible app

Ephesians 4:32 [Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.](#)

Think about what God has forgiven me.... All of my transgressions

What is God showing you? Apply it.
The Bible isn't meant to inform us—Transform us—Holy Spirit
Lord, I'm willing, help me. Then you can ask God "Show Me How"
And if you are willing to trust God and allow him to help you and heal you.
you will find out that with the help of God—You can forgive and love like you have
never been hurt

Digging deeper, 50 years later

- **Ignatius**—Bishop of Antioch, Famous martyr—Likely discipled by John.—Ignatius—
Wrote a letter— **in Ephesus**.
- In letter—Ignatius brags—Church's Bishop.
Calls him a man of "inexpressible love."— "You should pray to be like him"—
"Blessed be God who granted unto you such an excellent bishop."

Bishop's name?—Onesimus
(Not sure) right time, place, name —Many believe—Runaway slave—who met Jesus....
GOD RE-WROTE THE STORY OF ONESIMUS
RUN AWAY SLAVE— BUT NOW— BISHOP OF THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS
GOD CAN REWRITE OUR STORY
When, how? As we read His Word

What will God's Word do in your life?

Depends on what you need.
Hurting—Hope.
Lost—Direction.
Doubting—Build faith—Faith hearing.
Anxious—Cast your anxiety—Cares—Peace.
Trapped in a life you never wanted—Truth that sets you free!

Closing
Commitment to read God's Word daily.