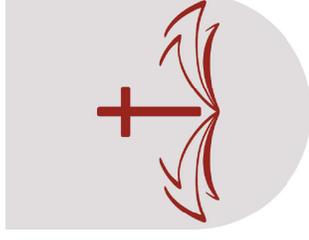




Intro

The Bible can feel overwhelming to those just getting started on a Bible study journey. Even seasoned Believers can wrestle with difficult (or familiar!) passages, wanting to get the most out of what they read. It's easy to feel a little lost or unsure sometimes. Is it really possible for regular people like us to navigate the Bible and study it deeply? If so, where on earth do we begin? This guide offers six simple methods for navigating the Bible. Try the methods out and share them with others. If you do verse-by-verse study, have assigned readings, or just want to enhance your daily quiet times, this guide is for you!



TRCT Lens: 2 Timothy 3:16



Bible Study Method 1

Paul writes to Timothy and clearly explains the importance of Scripture. **Let's look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17:**

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Verse 16 tells us that all Scripture is "profitable for" four things. No matter what book, chapter, or verse we study, we can use these four profitable things as a roadmap for some basic Bible study questions. We can then use those questions as a lens to help us see the passage better.

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Teaching



Think about it: When you teach something, is it typically something good or something bad? Something right or something wrong?

So, ask: "In the passage, what is good? What is right?"

Rebuking



Think about it: When you rebuke something or someone, is it typically for something good or something bad? For something right or something wrong?

So, ask: "In the passage, what is *not* good? What is *not* right?"

TRCT Lens: 2 Timothy 3:16

Method 1 Cont'd.

Correcting

Think about it: Knowing what is right and knowing what is not right, analyze yourself or your situation. What needs correcting? How can you turn that thumbs down to a thumbs up? Where does that correction need to start? (Answer: In your heart!)



So, ask: "Based on what Scripture says, what needs to change? What do I need to stop or start doing?" (Remember, the root of all change is a change of heart.)

Training

Think about it: Once we accept the fact that change needs to happen, the question becomes, who will I/we implement that change?



Training is not studying change; training is implementing change out in the field—the field of life.

So, ask: "Based upon what Scripture says and the decision I've made, how will I follow through? What will I go and do?"

Notice that verse 17 gives us the purpose for Scripture. It is to "be complete, equipped for every good work." What good work will you do?

Make an "I will _____" statement and follow through on it with the help of your group.

I will _____.

3



TRCT Lens: 2 Timothy 3:16

Method 1 Cont'd.

Try it Out: Luke 10:1-12

- Read it through and circle what God is **teaching**.
- Read it again and underline what God is **rebuking**.
- Next, determine what you need to **correct**.
- Now decide what **"training"** you'll go do (what change you'll implement).

1 After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

2 He told them, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

3 Now go; I'm sending you out like lambs among wolves.

4 Don't carry a money-bag, traveling bag, or sandals; don't greet anyone along the road.

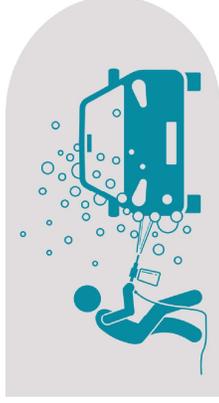
5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'

6 If a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

4

TRCT Lens: 2 Timothy 3:16

Method 1 Cont'd.



SUDS

Method 2

Try it Out: Luke 10:1-12

- 7 Remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they offer, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Don't move from house to house.
- 8 When you enter any town, and they welcome you, eat the things set before you.
- 9 Heal the sick who are there, and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.'
- 10 When you enter any town, and they don't welcome you, go out into its streets and say,
- 11 'We are wiping off even the dust of your town that clings to our feet as a witness against you. Know this for certain: The kingdom of God has come near.'
- 12 I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

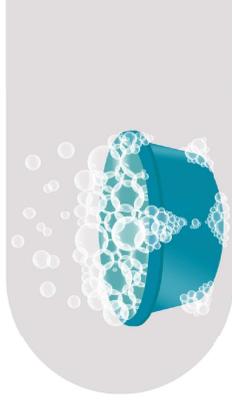
Now Recap:

- What is God **teaching**?
- What God is **rebuking**?
- What will I **correct**?
- What **"training"** will I now go *do* (how will I obey)?

I will _____

5

Keep an ongoing conversation with the Lord as you spend time in the Word. Pray throughout your SUDS time, and again after you've worked through the SUDS method.



Follow these steps:

See - What do I see in this passage?

Ask yourself questions like:

- What specific words or phrases do I see in this passage?
- Who is talking? Who is being spoken to?
- Do I see any truths, promises, or commands?
- Do I see action words or descriptive words?
- When I read the same passage several times, do "new" words/phrases pop out at me?

Understand - Do I understand what I see? (And what are the implications of what I see?)

Ask yourself questions like:

- Are there any words I don't understand? (Use a dictionary.)
- Do I understand what's happening? Do I understand the context?
- Do I need to use a commentary? A map? Study Bible notes?
- Are there cross-references I should explore?
- What should I understand about God, the church, others, or myself because of this passage?
- Can I put this passage into my own words?

6

SUDS:

Method 2 Cont'd.

Do - What will I do in response to my time in the Word?

Ask yourself questions like:

- What is God nudging me to do in response?
- Should I pray something specific?
- Should I praise God for something specific?
- Do I need to correct a belief?
- Do I need to cut something out of my life or add something to it?
- Will I take a physical step of obedience? If so, do I need to create an actionable plan?

Share - Who will I share my quiet time with?

Ask yourself questions like:

- Who can I share with?
- What specifically will I share?
- Do I need to simply share the Gospel?
- Do I need to share for my accountability?
- Will I share as a testimony to what God is continuing to do in my life?
- Will I share with someone who needs encouragement from the Lord?



Try it Out: Psalm 1

Read Psalm 1 -- one time, slowly.

Now, work through the SUDS acronym, asking at least two or three questions from each category. Record your responses and make sure to follow up with any plans you've made.



The Sword

Method 3

"The Sword" is a simple method for discerning what Scripture is saying. There are four basic questions to be asked. Start by asking yourself the question at the top of the sword, and work toward the bottom. Then begin with the question on the left, and work toward the right.

1

What does the passage say about God?



3

Is there a sin to confess?

4

Is there a command to obey?

What does it say about humankind?

2

The Sword

Method 3 Cont'd.

Let's try it!

Read Luke 9:57-62 and record your answers below:

1

2

3

4



Three Crosses

Method 4

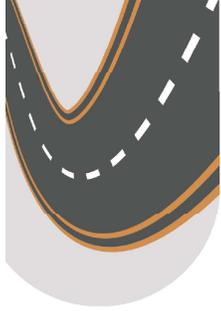
The Three Crosses Inductive Bible Study Method originates from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in Luke 23:32-43.

Steps to Using the Three Crosses:

1. Read Luke 23:32-43.
2. Ask: What do we learn about Jesus from this account? What does Jesus do? What does He say? What are His character traits? Write the responses above the center Cross (around the word "Jesus" on the next page).
3. Ask: What do we learn about people from this account? What does the person/people do and what do they say? What are the character traits of the person/people in the account? Write the response below the center Cross (around the word "Man" on the next page).
4. Is there a sin in the story? Write the response above the cross on the left (around the word "Sin" on the next page).
5. Is there a consequence to the sin mentioned in the account? Write the response below the cross on the left (around the word "Consequence" on the next page).
6. Is there a good example portrayed (by the man/woman) in the account? Write the response above the cross on the right (around the words "Good Example" on the next page).
7. Is there a promise in the account? Write the response below the cross on the left (around the word "Promise").
8. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this account?
9. What action do I need to take so that I am obedient to Jesus?

Three Crosses

Method 4 Cont'd.



3 R's

Method 5



What are the 3 R's? Read, React, Respond.

The 3R's is a super simple method highlighting reaction and response. Keep an ongoing conversation with the Lord as you spend time in the Word.

Read

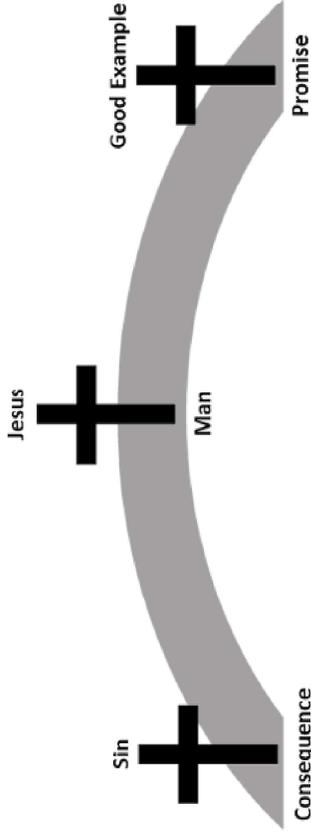
Read a passage several times. Mark words that stand out to you. Consider highlighting, underlining, journaling, drawing, etc. Look for what God is saying to you through His word.

React

Now that you've read the passage, what is your reaction? Do you see an area where you need to obey? A decision you need to make? How is the Holy Spirit changing your heart because of what you've read?

Respond

Spend time with God in prayer, responding to Him regarding what you've read and reacted to. Talk to Him about any decisions you need to make or beliefs you need to correct. Spend time praising Him for who He is, what He is doing, and what He has done. Ask Him to help you take specific steps to be more like Jesus.



3 R's:

Method 5 Cont'd.

Let's Practice!

Read Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Now do the 3 R's.

Mark any words or phrases that stand out. What is God saying to you?

What is your initial reaction to what God's Word says?

What steps will you take to respond to God in obedience?



13



Create-a-Study

Method 6

Using this method, you will spend time creating your own Bible study, in 5 simple steps.

1. Choose and write out a Bible verse or short passage.
2. Underline or make notes on anything that stands out to you.
3. Write yourself five questions: three questions about the verse/passage and two questions that encourage response.

Here are just a few examples:

What are the 5 W's of this passage?

(The who, what, when, where, why -- and even how.)

What is this telling me to do? Believe? Or Pray?

Who is speaking or being spoken to?

Where is this taking place?

Is this subject discussed elsewhere in the Bible?

How can I be different today because of what I've studied?

What will I praise God for because of this?

What will I do to obey?

4. Hunt down the answers to your questions by using your Bible's study notes, concordance, cross-references, etc., or by consulting other tools such as a Bible dictionary, commentary, websites like GotQuestions.com or Biblehub.com, etc.

5. Respond to your quiet time through prayer and obedience.

14

Create-a-Study

Method 6 Cont'd.

Try it out: Isaiah 26:3-4

Write it out:



Notes:

Underline, circle, highlight what stands out.

Write 5 questions (three about the passage, two that encourage response).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now respond through prayer and obedience.