

How To Study The Bible-God's Word In Your Life

INTRODUCTION: *How To Study The Bible* is an online Bible Study that covers what you need to have God's Word fully incorporated into your life. It includes a guide for inductive study, resources-everything you need to begin to have God's Word working in you.

Online Christian Discipleship School
LifeCycle Series B2

Introduction: Possibly the biggest cause of error, division, abuse and painful conflict in the Church is the unwillingness of Christians to learn for **themselves** what God's Word says and apply it to their lives. According to George Barna in his book, *Index Of Leading Spiritual Indicators*, only 34% of U.S. adults claim to have opened the Bible once a week other than at church. Only 7.5 % claim to read it daily. Having pastored for over 10 years, it's been my observation that less than 20 % of those **active** in church have a working understanding of the Bible. This observation is based on the attitudes displayed by their actions and statements. Mt 15:18 "...the things that come out of the _____ come from the _____."

These numbers seem impossible when compared to the "Christian" business growth. This is a multi-billion-dollar industry, surely, these consumers must have great knowledge of the things of God. Not really! Most of the books sold are not Bibles or Bible study tools, but fiction, commentary, doctrinal argument, wiggly "spiritual" advice, "devotional" mis-applications of Scripture, and "new age" philosophy. Now, many of the Bibles sold have someone's opinion included prominently on the same page as God's Word. This lesson is devoted to giving you the beginning tools to read, understand and apply God's Word. Our goal is to have you independent of anyone's commentary or teaching other than that of the Holy Spirit. I Jn 2:27 "As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you ___ ___ need anyone to _____ you. But as his anointing teaches you about ___ things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in ___."

1. What's The Big Deal About A Book? The Bible is more than Just a book. It's a compilation of over 60 books, written by over 40 authors, over a course of more than 1,500 years, yet it miraculously portrays its one message with clarity throughout. What message? God, our Creator, loves us and wants so much to be in intimate, eternal relationship with us that He sacrificed His Son to allow us to choose His love. Miraculously, there has never been a historical or scientific discovery that refutes any detail or prophecy in the Bible. No other ancient document can make that claim. Miraculously, out of the thousands of ancient Biblical manuscripts in existence there are no disagreements in content. No other ancient document can make that claim. Still, we need to know more. What claims does the Bible make about itself?

Mt 24:35 "Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my _____ will _____ pass away."

Is 40:8 "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the _____ of our God _____ forever."

Jesus quoted from the Old Testament and then called it the "Word of _____". Mt 15:6

II Tim 3:16 "All _____ is God –breathed..."

II Pe 1:21 "...prophecy never had its _____ in the will of man, but men spoke from _____ as they were _____ along by the Holy Spirit."

I Co 2:13 "This is what we speak, not in _____ taught us by _____ wisdom but in words taught by the _____."

The Bible is not just a book. It's a collection of Words from God, so important that God had them recorded and protected for thousands of years, just so you could know them today.

Continued at [How To Study The Bible-2](#)

How To Study The Bible-2

2. Why Should I Study God's Word?

a. Because of what the Word does for us:

Ps 19:7-11 God's Word: Revives the _____, Makes the simple _____, Gives _____ to the heart, Gives _____ to the eyes, Gives warning to God's _____.

Ps 119:105 "Your Word is a _____ to my feet and a light to my _____."

He 4:12 "For the Word of God is _____ and _____. _____ than any double-edged sword...it _____ the thoughts and attitudes of the _____."

II Ti 3:16 "All Scripture...is _____ for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in _____."

Mt 4:4 "Man does not _____ on bread alone, but on every _____ that comes from the mouth of _____."

Ro 10:17 "...faith comes by hearing...through the _____ of Christ."

b. Because the early followers of Jesus studied God's Word:

Ac 17:11 "...they...examined the Scriptures _____ day to see if what Paul said was true."

Ac 2:42 "They _____ themselves to the apostles' teaching..."

c. Because God said so:

Col 3:16 "Let the _____ of _____ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..."

II Tim 2:15 "...a workman who...correctly handles the _____ of truth."

3. How Do I Study God's Word? Take a blank piece of paper, look at your computer and list the components you see in a column on the Left in this order: Speakers, Monitor, Keyboard, Mouse, Printer, Processor. Consider what each part does as you list it. At the top of the sheet, title the paper: How to Process God's Word. As we cover each 'function' of Holy Word Processing, list it next to the computer component it's related to, and, next to that, a frequency (daily, weekly, monthly) you intend to perform this function.

a. Hear: As Ro 10:17 says, faith comes by hearing. This is the easiest to do, and, unfortunately, it's where most Christians stop. They'll hear in a "church" , on TV. or radio, or in a Bible study...but a few days later...it's gone. Most people don't need to do more hearing, but maybe better hearing. Lk 8:18 "...consider carefully how you _____." Read Lk 8:5-15. What does it say about those who truly hear the Word of God? _____ . List 'hearing' next to 'speakers' on your Word processing sheet. We recommend at least 2 times a week for hearing the Word because of how long you retain what you hear. This can be done by TV, radio, Worship music that actually uses Scripture, Bible on tape or

CD, or attending a service. Hearing is useful, but if that's where you stopped, your life would be like a computer that only played sounds.

b. Read: Ac 17:11 "They examined the scriptures every day..." Reading the Word is essential to Spiritual growth. The more regularly we do it, the better. Jesus compared God's Word to bread, something His contemporaries ate every day for survival. We need to approach the Word with the same hunger we approach dinner. Once we develop the habit of daily reading, we notice hunger setting in if we miss a couple days in a row. If the average reader were to read the bible 15 minutes every day, he'd get through it in a year. I can't tell you how valuable this was, the first time I did it. I didn't really understand much about God until I read His Word through. I do it every year, now. It doesn't matter if we miss a day here and there, just that we make a habit of reading His Word. List 'reading' next to 'monitor'. We recommend at least once a day for 5-15 minutes. By both hearing and reading, your computer is more useful...you get a far more functional life.

c. Study: Col 3:16 If we're to "properly handle the Word of truth" we must do more than skim the surface. There's a place for reading and a place for studying. Many teach people to use a study bible or commentary for "deeper" understanding of God's Word. That's not deeper, it's just someone else's opinion. We need to understand God's Word from God's Word, then we'll be deeper in what counts-His wisdom. I'm going to give you a study system that includes no commentary from anyone other than God. This isn't the only way to study His Word, just the simplest way I've found. It's hard work, but rewarding, kinda like chewing steak. Start with a small Book, say, I John.

1) Tools: As many different translations of the Bible as you can afford. Lots of paper and pencils with erasers. Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, with topical index. English Dictionary.

2) Time: Recommend about two hours per week in at least ½ hour blocks, with no interruptions.

3) Technique: Modified "Inductive" study includes Observation, Investigation, Application. (a) Read Scripture in 5 or more translations (take a small section, say, 6 verses). (b) Ask yourself questions using the words Who, What, Why, How, Where and When, find the answers in the verses you're studying and write them down. (c) Using the Dictionary, Concordance and Topical index, look up every word, phrase or topic you have questions about and write down your answers. Be sure to resolve any seeming contradictions with other Scripture. (d) Rewrite the Scripture, taking into consideration the answers in b & c. (e) Mentally apply what you've studied to your own life, job, family, etc. (f) Memorize one or more of the verses that is especially meaningful to you. (g) Now you can look at a commentary if you want.

Completed at [How To Study The Bible-3](#)

How To Study The Bible-3

3.c. Study Continued:

4) List 'study' next to, you guessed it, 'keyboard'. Without the keyboard, you could only see what your computer was programmed to show you in whatever sequence it was programmed. With the keyboard, you can delve deeper into areas that interest you and perform useful searches to answer nagging questions. It's the same with you knowledge of God, when you regularly add study to your Word processing habits.

Note: This is a "beginning" Bible study technique. Over time, you may wish to acquire the tools for more detailed study.

d. Meditate: Ps 1:1-2 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked...but his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he _____ day and night." Rom 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be _____ by the renewing of your _____." Meditation is not the absence of thought, as some Eastern mystics may tell us, but the purposeful mental application of God's Word to our lives. It's mentally imagining ourselves living in accordance with the principles of God. You may have noticed we've incorporated meditation in the study technique, above. Very perceptive of you! Meditation is, to your life, like the mouse is, to the computer. It points you in the direction you want to go and moves you rapidly toward that goal. Meditation is especially helpful when you've just had a life situation that applies to the Scripture you're meditating. If you make a habit of meditation, God will arrange this.

e. Memorize: Ps 119:11 "I have _____ your word in my _____ that I might not _____ against you." Jn 15:7 "If you remain in me and my _____ remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." Pr 7:1-3 "My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you...write them on the tablet of you heart." Memorizing Scripture is very important, but not for the sake of memorizing. We don't recommend using some "Scripture Memory" program and doing a certain number every day or week. You may have noticed we've incorporated memorization in the study technique, above. Very perceptive of you! This is how Scripture memory should work; as you find Scriptures that are especially meaningful to you in your study, take the time to memorize them. It's easier to memorize, makes meditation automatic, and provides your own life application in memory with the applicable Scripture. This will come in handy, because God will give you opportunities to share what you're learning. Memorization is like the printer because it prints the Word in your life and makes copies in the lives of others as He leads you to share.

f. Do: Ja 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. ___ what it ____." Think about your computer for a moment. How useful are all those components without the processor they plug into? **Not!** That's exactly how useful it is to do any of the above without actually doing what God's Word says. Let me make the point even more obvious.

If you aren't going to do what God's Word says, why study it?

The purpose of this course isn't so you will know the Word, it's so you will **LIVE** the Word. This is the ultimate goal of this whole Discipleship School, **that we learn to have our every action and thought shaped by the Word of God, living in us.**

So many are satisfied just skimming the surface of life in the Lord. You wouldn't have gotten to this point in the Life Cycle courses if you were one of them. You've already been "cut out of the herd". Start asking the Lord, "Why?" He has a wonderful plan for each of us. As you continue in regular prayer, reading and study time, He will make His plan for you clear to you. Jn 15:14-15 "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends..."

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:12