

Lesson 2 – How to Study the Bible
Learning How to Consistently Study the Bible
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Introduction: We should not be afraid to be honest in a self-evaluation.

- A. All of us are to go through the process of growing out of spiritual infancy.
 - 1. A key measure of growth will be how we are able to truly search the scriptures. **(Heb 5:12-14)**
 - 2. What does a child do when he has a question? What does an adult do?
- B. As a Christian you will be faced with significant spiritual decisions. It is crucial that you become equipped to make the right decisions!
 - 1. If you do not develop a discipline, consistent stand upon God's word then your life will be determined by others. **(Eph 4:11-15)**
 - 2. If you cannot study for yourself then you will depend on others! What happens if you blindly follow another? **(Mt 15:13-14; 1 Cor 15:33)**
 - 3. What will a Christian do if he is asked to study with another to resolve a difference with another Christian but he actually does not know how to effectively study the Bible? **(1 Pt 3:15)**

I. Where am I in my Bible study ability?

- A. Honestly answer these questions for yourself:
 - 1. How often do you study the Bible apart from assigned tasks? In other words, do you often read and study the Bible on your own?
 - 2. Do you have a planned and regular Bible reading program?
 - 3. Have you ever read the entire Bible?
 - 4. What do you do when you run across a verse or a Bible word that you do not understand?
 - 5. Do you believe that you are able to take a Bible subject and research what the Bible teaches on that subject?
 - 6. Do you feel able to study with another about a difference in interpretation of the scriptures?
 - 7. What is your greatest hindrance to effective Bible study?
 - 8. What are some areas you would like this class to address?
- B. Answer these questions about Bible study tools:
 - 1. How many Bible translations do you own?
 - 2. What is your primary translation that you use? Why?
 - 3. Do you own a Bible dictionary? A book defining Bible words like Vine's dictionary?
 - 4. Do you know how to look up the Greek or Hebrew meaning of a Bible word?
 - 5. Do you own a Bible software program for your computer?
 - 6. Do you use Bible websites that have translations, dictionaries, lexicons and other tools?
 - 7. Do you own any Bible commentaries?

II. Some general rules of Bible study

- A. Always reason from the **context**.

1. Did you hear about the man who opened his Bible and read whatever passage his finger came down on? He first read “Judas went out and hanged himself” and then randomly quickly turned to another verse which read: “Go thou and do likewise!”
 2. You need to know the place that the book has in the overall theme of the Bible! What is the difference in reading from a passage in Genesis from Matthew or of the book of Jude?
 3. You must understand the proper divisions of God’s word such as Old Testament and New Testament. What are some other important considerations when reading from a specific Bible book?
 4. You need to understand the purpose of the writing of a given book.
 - a. Who wrote the book and when was it written?
 - b. What was the purpose of the book being written?
 - c. Who was the book written to?
- B. Understand the **setting and subject** of the verse. Ask these three questions:
1. Who is **speaking**?
 2. Who is being **spoken to**?
 3. What is the **subject**?
- C. Consider **everything God has to say** on a subject. (**Matt 4:4**)
1. Consider the possible conclusions we might draw if we only considered these verses in our study. (**Rom 10:9; Gen 6:14; Matt 10:19-20**)
 2. How does one find all of the appropriate verses on a given subject?
- D. Always interpret the hard to understand verses in light of the easy to understand verses. (**2 Peter 3:16**)
1. Consider interpretations some make on these verses and then look at other verses on the same subject.
 - a. Baptism for the dead. (**1 Cor 15:29; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27**)
 - b. Universal Salvation of the Jews. (**Rom 11:26; Luke 13:3; Acts 10:34-35**)
 - c. Faith only salvation - (**John 3:16; John 3:36 ASV; Jas 2:22-26**)
 2. What kind of effort is necessary to properly understand the Bible?

III. Applying what we have learned

A. Consider one key verse in the New Testament **Jude 3**. Here is the NKJV: “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

1. Define these words: exhorting, contend, earnestly and the faith.
2. Who wrote the book of Jude and what was the occasion?
3. What tools would you likely use in these tasks and why?