

DISCIPLESHIP

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

ARMING THE SAINTS WITH THE WORD



WELCOME TO DISCIPLESHIP.

THE BIBLE IS YOUR HANDBOOK FOR LIFE.

The Bible is widely regarded as imperative to living the Christian life. Some read it, but very few take time to actually study it. Taking time to go in depth to study the Scriptures allows you to get a clearer understanding of who God is and who you are. The bigger story that we find in the Bible is that of His love for His Creation, to the great extent that He sent His only Son for us. Do you know the Word? Do you want to? This four week journey will require your focus, your diligence, and yes, folks, it will require work. But as we know, all good things require some effort. The reward will be four weeks spent falling deeper in love with the God that is crazy about you and deepening your understanding of what He wrote for you in Scripture. What will be beyond these four weeks? That is up to you. Let's begin.

Pastor Tonderai and the Discipleship Team

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

CLASS OUTLINE



NO ONE COMES TO THE BIBLE EMPTY

Presuppositions & their impact on reading and understanding Scripture



THE ART OF INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE | IS THAT WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS?

Hermeneutics & How Scripture Interprets Scripture



WHO WROTE THE BIBLE? | WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer & Words and Their Meanings



THE BIBLE AND CULTURE

Culture and the Impact on Understanding Scripture & Creating a Culture of Bible Study

HOMework

Each week, you will find a short homework section at the end of each unit. You are invited to share your homework answers with our team at discipleship@newsongpeople.com

WEEK 1

NO ONE COMES TO THE BIBLE EMPTY

A person's presupposition will determine, to a large extent, how they understand and interpret Scripture. It is important to recognize that we do not come to the Bible with empty thoughts or without opinion. Our goal in reading Scripture should be to allow the Word to speak to us, not for us to try and speak into the Word.

Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skillfully teaching the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 AMP

CORE CONCEPT: We must interpret our experience by the Bible, not interpret the Bible by our experience. We must let Scripture tell us what we need to think about Scripture. We do this by understanding the Bible is authoritative, and an extension of God Himself. We approach Scripture knowing it is all truth, it is all unified, and it is all trustworthy.

HOMEWORK:

1. Identify a presupposition you hold about Scripture.
(Ex: God is the author of the Bible)
2. Find Scriptures that support or dispell the presuppositon you have.
3. What presuppositions do you recognize in our culture that the Bible speaks to and disproves?

WEEK 2

THE ART OF INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE

Hermeneutics, the theory and method of interpretation, helps us to better understand the Scriptures. Exegesis helps us realize the original intent of the wording of Scripture.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

CORE CONCEPT: Our goal of exegesis and the use of hermeneutics is to better understand God's Word so that it can speak to us in our situations today.

IS THAT WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS?

We use Scripture to interpret Scripture and recognize that the Bible, as God's Word, is an aspect of Him.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God and the Word was God.

John 1:1 KJV

CORE CONCEPT: We see that God called Himself the Word, relating an importance to Scripture that we cannot fail to recognize. One of our chief ways to know God is to know His Word, recognizing that as He has built His Word upon His Word, we can understand His Word by His Word.

HOMEWORK:

1. Use the tools discussed today to dig into the original intent of the author in Isaiah 53.
2. In Isaiah 53, who is the author talking about?
3. After answering question 2, find other Scriptures to support that this is who the author is talking about.

WEEK 3

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

Let's learn Bible study methodology:
how the Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer
(SOAP) method helps us understand Scripture, and the
importance of regarding the Bible as one whole concept
and philosophy written by One God.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be
transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Romans 12:2a NIV

CORE CONCEPT: Bible study methods take us from reading to truly studying the Bible, allowing us to glean more, press in a deeper way, and more fully seek the heart of God throughout Scripture.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Our ability to handle Scripture well is deepened when we understand how to approach different translations, original language, the Canon, and words & their meanings.

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:130

CORE CONCEPT: Understanding how to truly study the roots of what we read in Scripture, starting with the intended meaning of the words used, helps us more excellently handle the Word of Truth.

HOMEWORK:

1. Use the SOAP method to study 2 Timothy 2.
2. Compare 4 translations you enjoy reading. Write out whether they are word for word or thought for thought.
3. How does your understanding of the Canonization of Scripture affect your view on the authority and the trustworthiness of the Bible?

WEEK 4

THE BIBLE AND CULTURE

Whether regarding the culture of the day when a passage of Scripture was written, or recognizing the culture in which we read the Bible today, we cannot dismiss the impact of culture in our process of studying the Bible, even while necessitating our own lifestyle of maintaining a personal culture of Bible study and meditation.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:8 ESV

CORE CONCEPT: We must remain diligent in being students of the Word in order to discover the truths that lead to true life and liberty.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3 NIV

HOMEWORK:

1. In an effort to minister the Gospel, reflect on how sticking to cultural context is essential to relevance and understanding.
2. What dangers do you see in placing an emphasis on culture of the day over the truth of God's Word?
3. What do you desire your personal culture of Bible study to look like?

NOTES

NOTES

