

Bible Study

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Introduction:

A. These days we need to be careful about destructive critical scholarship.

1. A theological student was given advice by his father to beware of higher critics. Did Elisha's axe swim or did Jonah get swallowed by a fish? His father asked him. Do not lose your faith, the father admonished his son. The boy challenged his father to show him anything in the Bible about Jonah. The father could not because the son had cut out the pages about Jonah from his father's Bible, which the father had not missed. The father admitted that he was as bad as the higher critics by not reading his own Bible.

B. Today we want to cover the question of higher criticism.

1. Question and answer studies can be useful for one-on-one study.

C. Most of the principles we emphasize in life are contained in these question and answer studies.

1. A workman needs to study to show himself approved. (2 Timothy 2:15)

a. Study is work but it's profitable.

b. God knows our study is hard work.

2. The Bible is the life of a Christian.

a. Neglect of the Bible will render a Christian useless.

b. As we feed on the Bible and obey what God reveals to us, the Spirit gives more and more delight in the word.

c. The key to a victorious life is found in study and obedience of the word of God.

d. George Muller said that if we don't understand the Bible much we should study it more and more.

I. General instructions for advanced adult Bible study.

A. It's important to wait on the Lord for the choice of the book you should study.

1. Our leaders felt Philippians would be good for us today.

2. We need to give our heart to the book we study.

3. We could decide democratically which book to study but when the Lord directs us it is better.

B. Improve on each blank that we fill in your worksheet.

1. Do all of your work right on the blank except the outline and title.
2. Make it look presentable.

C. Be flexible.

1. Have a sanctified imagination as we work on each blank.
2. If explanations cause us to get bogged down let's use some creativity.
3. We need to have an open-hearted attitude.
4. Let's not get into a mental rut.
5. Originality is crucial in good Bible study.

D. We want to reap if possible.

E. Don't cheapen Bible study with slang words.

1. We had a man lately say we should perspire to follow Christ.
2. I questioned what he meant by that.
3. At least he didn't say "sweat."
4. He was sincere but it conjures up non-spiritual images in one's head.
5. Let's not use embarrassing language.

II. The order of Bible study.

A. Deal with cross references.

1. List all similar verses so that you can come back to your topic easily.
2. Get your cross references from memory and from concordances.

B. Cross reference the source of the verse, not just the word.

C. Get two translations of the same text to compare versions.

D. The Gospels require more cross referencing than other parts of the Bible.

IV. Problems in Bible study.

A. I call problems questions.

B. Try to get one question for every verse.

1. If 20 of us got together in a group, we would all have unique questions.
2. This encourages me to think through each Bible verse from every angle.
3. Don't always try to get answers right away; just list problems and questions.
4. There are two types of problems or questions.

- a. Personal questions; these I indicate by two question marks.

- b. Possible questions; these are what someone else might ask.

C. By asking many questions the truth shows up.

D. Asking questions takes you through the chapter and details a second time.

V. The final study.

A. I prefer an outline to a summary.

1. An outline has an advantage over a summary.
2. Outlines help me understand the chapter.
3. Outlines are good for teaching later on; choose the main divisions first.