



## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 1

- Prayer – God, guide us as we learn to study your word
- Why the Bible is Important?
  - “Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.” – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 CEB
    - 1 – Why is scripture beneficial?
    - 2 – How does scripture prepare us to do good?
  - God’s Word
    - Inspired by God
    - Enduring Truth
    - Trustworthy
  - Purpose
    - Learn who God is
    - Transformed into God’s image through the Holy Spirit
  - 3 – If we fully grasped the importance of God’s Word, how would our lives change?
- Approaching God’s Word Prayerfully
  - “We should pray before, during, and after reading God’s Word.”<sup>1</sup>
    - We need the Holy Spirit to understand Scripture.
  - Pray “Open my eyes so I can examine the wonders of your Instruction!” – Psalms 119:18
    - Ask the Holy Spirit to:
      - Illuminate the Scriptures
      - Recognize how the Spirit is moving in the world
      - Transform us
  - 4 – What could you do to remember to pray before, during, or after reading Scripture?
- What is the Gospel?
  - “God caused the one who didn’t know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21.
  - The good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation.
  - “Salvation is received by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus.”<sup>2</sup>
  - 5 – If you have accepted God’s gift of salvation, what was your experience?
  - 6 – How does understanding the gospel help us to understand the story of the Bible?
  - 7 – How should we live in response to the gospel and the gift of grace?
- **Homework** – Text Mark-up Exercise: Ephesians 2:1-10
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

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<sup>1</sup> Kimbrel, Joanna. *Search the Word: Knowing & Loving God through Intentional Bible Study*. The Daily Grace Co., 12.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 15.

# HOMEWORK – DUE FOR WEEK 2

*Required: Bible, 4+ different colored Highlighters/Pens/Pencils*

- Text Mark-up Exercise: Ephesians 2:1-10 – *Remember to pray before, during & after*

- Red Highlight/Underline: *Sin nature & the consequences of sin*

- Blue Highlight/Underline: *Jesus/Christ*

- Yellow Highlight/Underline: *God's work of salvation*

- Green Highlight/Underline: *How the gospel changes who we are & how we live*

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else. However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus. You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

- 1 – What are some of the things you highlighted and why?

- Challenge – Pray before, during, & after reading an additional passage of Scripture this week

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 2

- Prayer & Review – Holy Spirit reveal your Word & help us see your metanarrative, literary style & genre to interpret well
- Identifying the Gospel in Scripture
  - “All of Scripture points to the gospel because all of Scripture points to Christ.”<sup>3</sup>
    - Risk if we don’t see this, reading Scripture moralistically or legalistically
    - Old Testament anticipates the gospel, New Testament reflects on the gospel
    - God’s Word shows why we need Christ and what he accomplished in the gospel
- 1 – From your Homework, Share some of the things you highlighted and why?

- Summary of the Old Testament

Trinity Existed → Good Creation → Fall → Promise of Savior → Humanity Evil → Flood → Abrahamic Covenant → Abraham/Isaac/Jacob → Egypt → Israelites Multiplied → Enslavement → Moses → 1<sup>st</sup> Passover → Exodus → Law → Wilderness → Promise Land → Cycle of Judges → Kings: Saul/David → Promise of Messiah → Solomon’s Temple → Rebellion → Division: 2 Kingdoms → Wickedness → Exile: Northern Kingdom to Assyria 722<sup>BC</sup> →

Exile: Southern Kingdom to Babylon 586<sup>BC</sup> → Return → Rebuilding of Temple & Walls → About 430 years pass → NT

- 2 – What is most familiar to you in the Old Testament? What is least familiar?

- Summary of the New Testament

Messiah Born → John the Baptist prepares/calls to repent → Jesus Baptized at ~30 → Wilderness/Temptation → Jesus’ Ministry Begins → Calls Disciples → Teaching/Miracles → Transfiguration → Conspiracy to kill Jesus → Passover/Lord’s Supper → Prayer in the Garden → Betrayal → Trials: Sanhedrin/Roman → Crucifixion & Death → Burial → Resurrection → 40 Days → Promise of the Holy Spirit → Great Commission → Ascension → Prayer & Waiting → Pentecost → Birth of the Church → Preaching the Gospel/Miracles → Paul → Christ will Return → Restoration

- 3 – What is most familiar to you in the New Testament? What is least familiar?

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<sup>3</sup> Kimbrel, Joanna. *Search the Word: Knowing & Loving God through Intentional Bible Study*. The Daily Grace Co., 18.

- The Metanarrative of Scripture
  - The story throughout the Bible of redemption
  - Four Parts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration – Genesis 1-3, Revelation 21-22
    - Creation – Read Genesis 1:27, 31a
 

“God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. ... God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.”
    - Fall – Read Genesis 3:1-6, 23
    - Redemption – Read Galatians 4:4–7
 

“But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be adopted. Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.”
    - Restoration – Read Revelation 21:1-3, 22:1-5
  - 1 – How does recognizing the metanarrative change your approach to Scripture?
- Understanding Literary Styles & Genres
  - To interpret Scripture correctly, you must know the genre of the text
  - 3 Literary Styles: Narrative – 43%, Poetry – 33%, Discourse – 24%
  - 7 Biblical Genres:
    - Law – Exodus\*, Leviticus, Numbers\*, Deuteronomy
    - Historical Narrative – Genesis, Exodus\*, Numbers\*, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel\*, Jonah\*, Haggai\*, Acts
    - Wisdom – Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
    - Songs – Psalms, Song of Solomon
    - Prophecy – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel\*, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah\*, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai\*, Zechariah, Malachi, Revelation
    - Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
    - Epistles – Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1,2,&3 John, Jude
      - Pauline – Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
  - \* Each book can contain more than one type of genre or literature
  - 2 – When studying the Bible, have you been considering what genre you’re reading?
  - 3 – How does considering the genre change how you interpret what you read?
  - **Homework**
    - Read a passage of Scripture that seems least familiar to you
    - Look over the *Hermeneutical Fallacies & Principles* to avoid misinterpretation
  - Challenge – Read a passage of Scripture in each genre this week & interpret accordingly
  - Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# HERMENEUTICAL FALLACIES & PRINCIPLES

FALLACY	PRINCIPLE
Reading out of context	Always consider the historical, literary, & biblical context <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a commentary</li></ul>
Adding to or taking away from God's Word	Seek to understand Scripture as it is written without any personal biases
Eisegesis: Reading a meaning into the text	Exegesis: Draw out the intended meaning of the text
Interpreting Scripture through the lens of our own cultural experience	Interpret Scripture through the lens of the cultural context of the original audience
Forming a doctrine from a single verse	Allow Scripture to interpret Scripture <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Always look at the Bible as a whole</li><li>• The narrative may explain more fully than discourse</li></ul>
Allegorizing a passage that is not meant to be allegorized.  <i>An allegory is a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral, spiritual, or political one. Parables and fables are short allegories.</i>	Remember that more often than not, the obvious interpretation is the correct interpretation or the passage is meant to be a mystery
Asking, "What does the text mean to me?"	Ask, "What did the text mean to the original audience?" before attempting to apply it to yourself

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 3

- Prayer & Review – God help us interpret well by understanding your literary style & genre
- Narrative: Historical Narrative, Law, & Gospels
  - Historical Narrative – stories of real historical events
    - Identify plot
    - Consider how it is part of the metanarrative
    - Remember not all details are recorded
  - Law – Given to Israel, after God rescued them, so they could reflect God’s character
    - Reveals our need for a savior
  - Gospels – Historical narrative with poetry, discourse, and parables
    - Parables – fictional stories to teach us about Jesus, his mission, & how to live
  - Remember: God does not intend us to imitate all of the actions recorded in Scripture
  - Ask: What does this reveal about God & how should I live in response?
- Read Genesis 11:1-9
  - How can we tell if this passage is a historical narrative?
  - List all of the characters.
  - Summarize the plot.
- Poetry: Wisdom, Songs, & Prophecy
  - Communicates complex emotions & ideas through figurative language
  - Figurative Language:

Metaphor – not literal, for comparison	Simile – comparison using “like” or “as”
Hyperbole – exaggerate for emphasis	Irony – opposite      Imagery – appeals to senses
Personification – human traits to non-human	Metonymy – related name like “the crown” = queen
  - Remember: Principles describe results they often produce, not promises/guarantees
- Prophecy
  - Written by a prophet (a person God speaks through)
  - Contains promises of judgment for sins and mercy for repentance
    - Judgment in the form of exile
    - Mercy in the form of return
    - Promises of a Messiah and renewed creation
    - Revelation – End times, return of Christ
  - Imagery – paints a picture to communicate, not always literal
- Discourse: Epistles
  - Letter written to local churches or people with a focus on the gospel & Christian living
  - Some confront sin while others offer encouragement during persecution
  - As a letter, it is meant to be read in one sitting which allows a clearer understanding
- Structure of an Epistle
  - Intro: Author, Audience, Greeting (grace, peace, etc.), Prayer/Blessing/Thanksgiving
  - Body: Theological Teaching, Exhortation, Warn or Reprimand firmly
  - Conclusion: Personal Greeting, Exhortations, Practical Concerns, Doxology/Benediction
- **Homework** – Poetry & Prophecy Text Mark-up Exercise, optional: Philippians
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# HOMEWORK – DUE FOR WEEK 4

*Required: Bible, 4+ different colored Highlighters/Pens/Pencils*

- Poetry - Text Mark-up Exercise: Psalm 42 – *Remember to pray before, during & after*

- Highlight/Underline: figurative language

<sup>1</sup>Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God. <sup>2</sup>My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God's face? <sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food both day and night, as people constantly questioned me, "Where's your God now?" <sup>4</sup>But I remember these things as I bare my soul: how I made my way to the mighty one's abode, to God's own house, with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs — a huge crowd celebrating the festival! <sup>5</sup>Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and <sup>6</sup>my God. My whole being is depressed. That's why I remember you from the land of Jordan and Hermon, from Mount Mizar. <sup>7</sup>Deep called to deep at the noise of your waterfalls; all your massive waves surged over me. <sup>8</sup>By day the LORD commands his faithful love; by night his song is with me — a prayer to the God of my life. <sup>9</sup>I will say to God, my solid rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I have to walk around, sad, oppressed by enemies?" <sup>10</sup>With my bones crushed, my foes make fun of me, constantly questioning me: "Where's your God now?" <sup>11</sup>Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God.

- What is the psalmist's emotional state based on the simile in verse 1?
- What does the imagery in verse 7 communicate about the psalmist?
- What does the metaphor in verse 9 reveal about God's character?

- Prophecy - Text Mark-up Exercise: Hosea 11:1-11 – *Remember to pray before, during & after*

- Red Highlight/Underline: Accusations God brings against his people

- Blue Highlight/Underline: God's mercy, redemption, & restoration

- Yellow Highlight/Underline: God's judgment against sin

- Green Highlight/Underline: Repentance or Returning to the Lord

<sup>1</sup>When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. <sup>2</sup>The more I called them, the further they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and they burned incense to idols. <sup>3</sup>Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms, but they did not know that I healed them. <sup>4</sup>I led them with bands of human kindness, with cords of love. I treated them like those who lift infants to their cheeks; I bent down to them and fed them. <sup>5</sup>They will return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria will be their king, because they have refused to return to me. <sup>6</sup>The sword will strike wildly in their cities; it will consume the bars of their gates and will take everything because of their schemes. <sup>7</sup>My people are bent on turning away from me; and though they cry out to the Most High, he will not raise them up. <sup>8</sup>How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart winces within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. <sup>9</sup>I won't act on the heat of my anger; I won't return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a human being, the holy one in your midst; I won't come in harsh judgment. <sup>10</sup>They will walk after the LORD, who roars like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. <sup>11</sup>They will come trembling like a bird, and like a dove from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

- In verse 3, how does the imagery of a child learning to walk explain God's love?
- What sin does God accuse Israel of committing?
- What are the results of God's compassion in the passage?

- Optional: Read Philippians in one setting & mark/label structural elements in these passages

- Philippians 1:1-11
- Philippians 2:1-11
- Philippians 4:21-23

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 4

*Required: Bible, Commentaries to look up the historical context*

- Prayer & Review – Holy Spirit, let us understand the historical context & reveal what can be observed
- Review Homework
- Introduction to the Inductive Method
  - 3 Main Stages: Comprehension, Interpretation, & Application
  - Understanding the Historical Context:
    - *Author* – Who wrote the book? What's their occupation, family background, & history? What is important to know about them?
    - *Audience* – Who was the intended audience? What's their past & present circumstances? What's their cultural & religious background? Pretend you are them as you read the text. The text cannot mean something God did not intend.
    - *Date* – When was it written? What were the cultural practices? What are the historical or cultural circumstances? Where in the redemptive history timeline?
    - *Purpose* – What was the purpose of the book? This gives a basis for the meaning.
    - *Genre* – What is the genre of the book? What elements of this genre are important to know to understand the text? The genre determines if it is literal or figurative.
  - Exercise 1: Philemon – Answer the 5 questions above
    - Author?
    - Audience?
    - Date?
    - Purpose?
    - Genre?
- Observation & Comprehension
  - What does the text say?
    - Not meaning or application, but observing the details
  - Step 1 – Read the entire book
    - Then read the book again or listen to it repeatedly while driving or exercising
    - If you have read the book previously, you may go to step 2
  - Step 2 – Review an outline of the book, read the passage before and the passage after
  - Step 3 – Mark up your passage
    - Key or repeated words and ideas
    - Key themes
    - Transition words (therefore, but, because, if/the, likewise, etc.)
    - Lists
    - Comparisons & Contrasts
    - Commands
    - Questions you have about the text
  - 2 – How is this method different from how you usually study the Bible?
  - 3 – Are there any parts that are confusing or intimidating to you?
  - 4 – How do you think this method will benefit your understanding of Scripture?



- Exercise 2: Understanding the Text as a Whole
  - Read Philemon – *Remember to pray before, during & after*
  - Create your own outline
  
- 1 – How does the structure of the text impact your understanding of its message?
  
- Note key themes, verses, and your questions:
  - Key Themes:
  
  - Key Verses:
  
  - Questions:
  
- 2 – What is the book's tone? How does the tone contribute to the purpose/argument?
  
- 3 – What is the big idea from beginning to end? What is the main point?
  
- **Homework** – Text Mark-up Exercise: Philemon 8-22 NIV
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# HOMework – DUE FOR WEEK 5

*Required: Bible, 4+ different colored Highlighters/Pens/Pencils*

- Text Mark-up Exercise: Philemon 8-22 NIV – *Remember to pray before, during & after*

- Red Highlight/Underline: Key or Repeated words
- Blue Highlight/Underline: Comparisons & Contrasts
- Yellow Highlight/Underline: Key Themes
- Green Highlight/Underline: Commands
- Circle transition words
- Put rectangles around list words
- Draw a line with arrow to define unfamiliar words
- Write new questions below

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

- Questions:

- 1 – What new things did you observe that you did not notice in the first reading?

- 2 – Were your previous questions resolved after marking up the text? New questions?

- Challenge – Repeat Exercise 1 & 2 (from Week 4) with 1 Peter

- Challenge – Repeat Text Mark-up Exercise with 1 Peter or some portion of it

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 5

- Prayer & Review – Holy Spirit, let us understand the literary context & how to interpret your word
- Annotation
  - Review Homework
- Literary Context
  - Requires understanding the whole book and passages rather than just a verse
  - Requires identifying the speaker, audience, and main point being conveyed
  - Must question whether the verse is just descriptive or prescriptive
  - Literary Context Exercise – Philippians 4:13 ESV

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

    - What does this verse alone appear to mean?
  - Read Philippians 4:10-14
  - Who is speaking in Philippians 4:13?
  - Who is the audience?
  - What is the speaker talking about?
  - What else do we know about the historical context?
  - How is the point the speaker makes in 4:13 related to the rest of the argument?
  - In context, what is the meaning of 4:13? Different from isolated interpretation?
- Another useful technique is to read in other translations.
  - “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” NIV
    - This translation makes you wonder what “all this” refers to
  - “I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.” CEB
    - This translation makes you wonder what “all these things” refers to
    - It also translates “do” as “endure” to better fit the literary context

- Interpretation
  - What does the text mean? What would the text have meant to the original audience?
    - Step 1 – *Read the text in other versions*
      - Compare at least 3 versions, like: CEB, NET, NIV, ESV
        - CEB – translated straight from oldest manuscripts
        - NET – free online, completely new, 60,932 translators' notes
        - NIV, ESV – upgraded translations based on oldest manuscripts
        - ESV – no women on translation team, may have a gender bias
      - NLT can also be useful, but its less accurate
      - KJV/NKJV: based on newer manuscripts (older is better, closer to original)
      - Beware of translation biases, example: Doug Moo, a Calvinist, translated Romans for most modern translations
    - Step 2 – *Read cross-references*
      - Either reference the same topic to expand your understanding or if a quotation, show the source
    - Step 3 – *Paraphrase or summarize the passage*
    - Step 4 – *Identify how the text reflects the metanarrative of Scripture*
      - How does the passage point to our Redeemer, Jesus, or anticipate him?
      - How is Jesus the better version of the characters?
      - How does Jesus answer the needs and problems in the passage?
    - Step 5 – *Read trustworthy commentaries*
      - Wait until now to read the commentary for the passage
      - Find trustworthy commentaries at <https://www.bestcommentaries.com>
  - 3 – How will the background information from the observation phase help with the interpretation process?
  - 4 – What observations from the first phase will help you with the interpretation phase?
  - 5 – Which of these steps have you done before? Which is new?
- **Homework** – multiple translations, cross-references, & paraphrasing
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# HOMework – DUE FOR WEEK 6

*Required: Bible with cross-references, Pen/Pencil, Flags/Sticky tabs/Bookmarks to mark pages*

- Reading in Multiple Versions – *Remember to pray before, during & after*
  - Read Philemon 8-10 in multiple translations

CEB	NIV	ESV	NKJV
8 Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to command you to do the right thing,	8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,	8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required,	8 Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting,
9 I would rather appeal to you through love. I, Paul—an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus—	9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—	9 yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—	9 yet for love’s sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ—
10 appeal to you for my child Onesimus. I became his father in the faith during my time in prison.	10 that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.	10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.	10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,

- 1 – How did reading the passage in different versions help answer your questions?

- 2 – What additional insights did you gain by reading different versions?

- 3 – Did any of the versions use different words for your unfamiliar words?

- 4 – Do different words help you better understand the meaning of the text?

- Cross References: any footnotes that list other passages of Scripture
  - Remember – Scripture interprets Scripture
  - Read 1 Peter 2:1-12 – *Remember to pray before, during & after reading Scripture*
    - 5 – Do you notice any cross references?
  - See Peter’s direct quotes of the Old Testament shown by cross references to Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, & Isaiah 8:14 – Read the passage each verse is found in
    - 6 – How does reading the 3 Old Testament verses and surrounding verses give you a deeper understanding of the passage from 1 Peter?
    - 7 – How does Peter’s use of these 3 verses help you interpret the Old Testament passages? How does it help you see Christ in these Old Testament passages?
  - 8 – 1 Peter 2:3 references Psalm 34:8, How does Psalm 34:8 and surrounding verses explain what Peter means when he mentions “tasted that the Lord is good?”
  - 9 – 1 Peter 2:2 references the same topic in 1 Corinthians 3:2, how do 1 Corinthians 3:2 and surrounding verses impact your understanding of spiritual milk?
- Paraphrasing – Explain 1 Peter 2:1-12 in your own words
- Challenge – Read 1 Peter 2:1-12 in CEB, NIV, ESV, & NKJV translations

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 6

- Prayer & Review – Guide us in: 4 parts of the metanarrative, commentaries, & summarize
- Review Homework - multiple translations, cross-references, & paraphrasing
- Finding the Metanarrative – *Remember to pray before, during & after reading Scripture*
  - Read Ephesians 1:3-12 & note how the passage points to the 4 parts of the metanarrative

CREATION	FALL	REDEMPTION	RESTORATION
- Point to God as Creator? - What has God brought into existence in the text? - Highlight God's plan, sustaining work, sovereignty?	- Point to fallen nature? - What sin does the text call us to avoid? - How does this text show the effects of sin?	- Point to Christ? - How does the text show the transformation God works in us?	Point to our future hope?

- Using Commentaries
  - Finding good commentaries – <https://www.bestcommentaries.com>
    - NIV Application Commentary (NIVAC) – some free on Hoopla
    - The New American Commentary Series (NAC) – excellent for the OT
    - Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (TOTC) – free on Hoopla
    - Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (TNTC) – free on Hoopla
    - New International Commentary on the Old & New Testaments (NICOT/NICNT)
    - Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)
  - Access to digital commentaries
    - Bible Project - <https://bibleproject.com> – video commentary
    - Logos - <https://www.logos.com> – some free
    - Scribd - <https://www.scribd.com> – monthly subscript
    - Google Books - <https://books.google.com> – free previews
    - Hoopla - <https://www.hoopladigital.com> – free through local library
  - Study Bibles
    - Faithlife Study Bible (FREE on Logos, can be used with any translation)
    - NIV Cultural Background Study Bible
    - CSB Study Bible
    - The New Inductive Study Bible
  - Blue Letter Bible - <https://www.blueletterbible.org>
  - 3 – Explore several commentaries on Ephesians and the passage above
- Summarizing
  - 4 – Summarize the passage in Ephesians by sharing a short explanation & main points
- **Homework** - Identifying the Metanarrative of Scripture in the Epistles, Prophecy, & Narrative
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# HOMEWORK – DUE FOR WEEK 7

*Required: Bible, 4+ different colored Highlighters/Pens/Pencils*

- Identifying the Metanarrative of Scripture in the Books of Prophecy
  - Read Ezekiel 36:24-28 & note how the passage points to the 4 parts of the metanarrative

CREATION	FALL	REDEMPTION	RESTORATION

- Identifying the Metanarrative of Scripture in Historical Narrative
  - 1 – What is the context of the book of Exodus?
  - 2 – Read Exodus 2:23-25, 3:7-8 & note the 4 parts of the metanarrative
    - Remember to pray before, during & after reading Scripture*

CREATION	FALL	REDEMPTION	RESTORATION

- 3 – Explore several commentaries on Exodus and the passage in #2 above
    - 4 – Summarize the passage from Exodus by sharing a short explanation & main points
- Challenge – Read Colossians 1:3-17, highlight 4 parts of the metanarrative with different colors
- Challenge – Review 3+ commentaries on Philemon or 1 Peter 2:1-12



# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 7

- Prayer & Review – Holy Spirit, help us see how to apply the truth of your word.
- Review Homework
- Application
  - Ask, “How should the truth of this passage change me?”
  - Step 1 – *What attributes of God’s character are revealed in the passage?*
    - Directly or through God’s actions
  - Step 2 – *What do I learn about myself in light of who God is?*
    - Who are we in relation to his holiness?
  - Step 3 – *How should this truth change me?*
    - Direct commands or warnings?
    - How should I pray for God to change my heart?
    - What practical steps can I take toward cultivating habits of holiness?
  - 1 – How have you approached applying Scripture in the past?
  - 2 – Why is it important to have application as the last step of your study?
- God & Humanity
  - Review 1 Peter 2:1-12 & look for items according to the following questions
  - 3 – What are God’s stated character qualities? Based on God’s actions, what are God’s implied character qualities?
  - 4 – Describe God based on what is revealed in 1 Peter 2:1-12.
  - 5 – Review God’s stated and implied character qualities.  
What does this reveal about us in relationship to him? Examples: God’s holiness reveals our sinfulness; God’s patience shows how impatient we can be
  - 6 – Where does the text directly state some kind of sinful quality or behavior?
  - 7 – Where does the text state what is true of us because of our redemption in Christ?
- Life Application
  - 8 – What should be your response to the qualities of God listed in #3?
  - 9 – Review the list in #6, how do you see these sinful tendencies play out in your life?
  - 10 – Review the list in #7, how should you live in response to the redemptive work Christ has done for you?
  - 11 – Based on the commands in the text, what would it look like to practice them?
  - 12 – How should we live differently based on who God is and our relationship to him?
  - 13 – What are some specific actions steps you can take this week to start changing?
- **Homework** – Application Questions & Christ in Scripture
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In the application stage, ask yourself the following questions.

1. Is there a truth about God I need to remember in this passage?
2. Is there a sin to flee in this passage?
3. Is there a command to obey in this passage?
4. Is there an action or attitude to emulate in this passage?
5. Is there a principle to follow in this passage?
6. Is there something I need to pray?
7. What does this passage reveal about God and his character?
8. How does this text remind me of my fallen condition?
9. How should the truth of who God is as revealed in this passage change the way I live?
10. How can I respond in light of the redemption I have been given?
11. How should what I have learned about God change my heart and attitude toward my circumstances?
12. What practical things can I do in light of this passage?

# HOMework – DUE FOR WEEK 8

*Required: Bible, Pen/Pencil, Flags/Sticky tabs/Bookmarks to mark pages*

- Review the Application Questions & answer at least 4 of them for Philemon or 1 Peter 2:1-12

- Christ in All of Scripture: Promises & Prophecy

- 1 – Read Isaiah 53 while noting instances of prophecy & fulfillment in Christ

- Prophecy:

- Fulfillment:

- Christ in All of Scripture: Need for Christ

- As you study Scripture, ask, What is the problem/need/sin & how is Jesus the solution?

2 – Read these verses & determine the problem/need/sin & how Jesus is the solution

Passage	Problem, Need, or Sin	Jesus as the Solution
Genesis 3:8-19		
Psalms 14:1-3		
Isaiah 59:14-20		
Romans 7:15-25		
Galatians 5:19-24		

- Challenge – Write a prayer confessing your sin

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE – WEEK 8

- Prayer & Review – Lord, teach us how to pray through Scripture, see you in Scripture, and continue using what we have learned to study your word and teach others
- Praying through Scripture
  - “Praying your way through a verse of Scripture submits the mind to the Holy Spirit’s illumination of the text and intensifies your spiritual perception. The Bible was written under the Holy Spirit’s inspiration; pray for His illumination in your meditation.”<sup>4</sup>
  - Before beginning
    - Pray to praise God for who he is & thank him for what he has done.
    - Pray that God might use the text to reveal specific concerns or questions.
  - Step 1 - Pray for insight from the passage
  - Step 2 - Read passage
  - Step 3 - Meditate on passage while writing down thoughts & insights
  - Step 4 – Write out a prayer based on thoughts & insights for passage
  - Step 5 – Repeat until you have read the entire book or passage
  - After
    - Pray to ask for forgiveness for any sins revealed and ask God to transform you.
    - Pray about any specific concerns or questions you have.
- Review Homework – Christ in All of Scripture
- Christ in All of Scripture: Typology
  - Method of biblical interpretation where an element found in the Old Testament is seen to prefigure one found in the New Testament.
  - It can be seen in various parallels between persons/objects in the Old Testament & persons/ objects in the New Testament.
  - Warning – Typology can easily lead to taking Scripture out of context
    - Some believe only typologies specifically stated in the New Testament are valid.
    - Others believe additional typologies can be found, but while this may be true, you have to be careful or you can make it mean something God didn’t intend.
      - Also avoid taking the metaphor of the typology too far.
  - Type of Christ – person/object with similarities/differences, points forward to Christ
  - 1 – Read Genesis 3 & Romans 5:12-21
    - Compare the similarities/differences of Adam, an antitype, and Christ.
  - 2 – How do Adam’s shortcomings stir a desire for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, Jesus Christ?

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<sup>4</sup> Whitney, Donald S. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life (p. 61). The Navigators. Kindle Edition.

- Biblical Theology Themes
  - Biblical theology traces themes that develop chronologically through Scripture.
    - God reveals himself slowly over time and his work of redemption broadens throughout recorded Scripture.
  - Themes
    - Covenants, Kingdom, Priesthood, Sacrifice, Dwelling, Feasts, Clothing, Clean/Unclean, Worship, Promise Land, Immanuel, Exodus/Exile, Garden/Wilderness, Marriage, Light/Dark, Offspring, Blessing/Curse
  - 3 – Exercise: Theme of God’s dwelling place
    - Read Genesis 2, Recall in Genesis 3 God walking in the garden talking to Adam & Eve & then how they were banished from the garden
    - Read
      - Tabernacle: Exodus 40:16-38;
      - Temple: 1 Kings 6:2, 7, 9, 15-22; 2 Chronicles 7:1-2
      - Incarnation: Matthew 1:18; John 1:14
      - Believers: Ephesians 2:19-22
      - New Creation: Revelation 21:1-3, 11-12, 22; 22:1-2
    - How does the theme of God’s dwelling place develop throughout Scripture?
      - Consider how it develops during each of these periods: Eden, The Fall, Tabernacle, The Temple, Incarnation, Believers & New Creation
- Study Reflection
  - 1 – Why is studying Scripture important?
  - 2 – What is the most valuable thing you have learned in this study?
  - 3 – Are there any concepts you need to practice more? If so, how will you do this?
  - 4 – What has God revealed to you about himself through this study?
  - 5 – How will you approach Bible study differently moving forward?
- Challenges
  - Write a prayer asking God to help you study the word in the future.
  - Pray through a passage or book in the Bible.
  - Check out: Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald S. Whitney
- **Homework** – for week 9: Spiritual Gifts
  - Take the Spiritual Gifts Test: <https://designdiscovery.com/fivefold-spiritual-gifts-test/>
- Prayer Request/Closing Prayer

# ERICA'S PASSAGE STUDY GUIDE

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you
2. Context
  1. Author?
  2. Audience?
  3. Time period?
  4. Location?
  5. Genre?
3. Read
  1. Look at the book outline
  2. Read at least previous passage, selected passage, & next passage
    1. Summarize Previous passage?
    2. Summarize Current passage?
    3. Summarize Next passage?
  3. Read the selected passage in at least 2 other translations
    1. Translations?
  4. Read again in translation that seemed best
    1. Best Translation for this passage?
4. Examine
  1. Cross References
    1. How do they expand your understanding: passage, context, or certain words?
  2. What stands out?
    1. Questions:
    2. Anything that disproves what is commonly said or I believe about this passage?
    3. Noticed:
  3. Relevant to this passage...
    1. Author bio?
    2. Audience bio?
  4. What are your prejudgments?
    1. What is your culture telling you about this passage? What is the passage really saying instead?
    2. What other stories does this remind you of?
  5. Does this pattern/story repeat in Scripture multiple times?
    1. Which passages?
  6. Words
    1. Repetitive?
    2. Contrast/Comparison?
    3. List?
    4. Cause & Effect?
    5. Figures of Speech?
    6. Conjunctions? (and, but, therefore, for)
    7. Verbs?
    8. Pronouns? (our, us, I, you, she, it, this)

7. Engage the senses
  1. Feel?
  2. See?
  3. Hear?
  4. Smell?
  5. Taste?
8. Trinity
  1. Where is God the Father?
  2. Where is Jesus?
  3. Where is the Holy Spirit?
9. What has changed from the beginning at the end?
  1. Does this story really end well or does a future passage show otherwise?
10. What is left out of the story? Look at the gaps, events announced, and then already happened, but skip the occurrence.
11. Is the author or character being sarcastic? Try different tones.
12. Are they doing the opposite/differently than what they're telling you? Don't take it at face value. Look for irony.
5. Look at 3 commentaries best for this book and add notes above.
6. Purpose
  1. Original Author's
    1. Concerns/Problems?
    2. Goal?
  2. God's
    1. How is it about Jesus?
    2. What problems or promises can only Jesus solve?
7. Application
  1. What do we share in common with the original concerns/problems?
  2. How does this text point to Christ as the solution to these concerns/problems?
  3. What should we do or believe differently because of this text

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\* Unless otherwise noted, Scripture has been taken from the Common English Bible 2011.