

BIBLE STUDY TIPS

The Psalmist declared, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." (Psalms 119:105 NLT) His word lights the way, giving direction for each step ("for my feet") and giving wisdom for longrange plans ("for my path").

Let God's word guide, correct, instruct, lead, teach, and confirm, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do." (2 Tim 3:16-17 NLT)*

Practical:

- 1) Start with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of the truths you're reading and for a greater hunger for God's word. **See Psalm 5:3**
- 2) Make a commitment to regularly spend time in God's word. God commanded Joshua to "meditate on it day and night" **See Joshua 1:8**
- 3) Have a plan, a systematic approach to your study. It's a lifetime endeavor so approach it with purpose. Our random, "God give me something today" approach while flipping open the Bible is not the best consistent plan. **See Psalm 119:15**
- 4) Make it a priority by scheduling it into your day. The "if I have time today" approach doesn't seem to work. Something always seems to squeeze it out. **See Psalm 90:12**
- 5) Have a notebook close at hand to write insights gleaned from your study. **See Proverbs 2:3**
- 6) Meditate on a text, read and reread. Meditate on it throughout the day, memorize key verses. See **Psalm 119:48**

Conclude in prayer. Ask the question, "How will I be different today because of what I have just read?" Then ask God help you to live it out. **See Ephesians 4:16**

Principles:

"Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth." (2 Tim 2:15 NLT)

- 1) Start with your favorite translation of the Bible when studying and not a paraphrase. (We recommend the NIV or the NLT) Both of these are easy to read and are good translations. NOTE: A "translation" attempts to communicate word-for-word from the original language. A "paraphrase" takes the meaning of a verse or passage of scripture and attempts to express the meaning in the "plain language" of today.

2) Let scripture interpret scripture: Consider all of God's word in regards to any topic. Don't isolate one verse and try to build a doctrine or position. That is dangerous! Context is important – interpret a passage in the light of its context. Context is the portions of scripture surrounding the passage being studied, both before and after it. Language can be tricky. Interpret according to the correct meaning of the words. Some words change their meaning over a period of time. Use a bible dictionary to understand the original meaning and the grammar of a sentence. What's the intention? Ask yourself "Why did the author write the text?" Knowing the purpose of the writing can help in interpreting texts.

3) Interpret the scripture in the light of the historical, geographical and cultural background as far as can be known. There are many reference books that will help you in this process. With the help of reference books search out the literary form of a passage. Is it a narrative, poetry, teaching, prophecy, etc?

4) While studying look for repeated words and phrases. These can have great significance in a passage.

Personal:

There are many tools and techniques available at local Christian bookstores to aid and enhance personal Bible study. One simple tool is "journaling." Get a notebook and begin to write things down during your time of Bible study. With consistent, systematic daily bible reading and writing thoughts and prayers in a journal as you read... you will find your spiritual growth explosive!

Try doing a S.P.A.C.E. P.E.T.S. Bible Study

What is space pets? It is actually a simple way to do personal Bible Study.

1. Pray before you read the Bible asking for God to open your heart to His voice because when we read the Bible, God is speaking. *John 6:63 (NIV) The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*

2. Meditate on what you just read. Think about it and ponder on it awhile.

3. Ask yourself the S.P.A.C.E. P.E.T.S. questions.

What..

S = Sin do I need to Confess?

P = Promise do I find in what I read?

A = Attitude of mine do I need to change?

C = Command do I need to keep?

E = Example do I need to follow?

P = Prayer do I need to Pray?

E = Error do I need to avoid?

T = Truth I need to remember?

S = Something I need to Praise God for?

May God's blessing be upon you as you strive to be a faithful follower of Jesus, living out the command, "***Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed.***" (*Joshua 1:8b NLT*) And may the promised blessing be yours; "...***be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.***" (*Joshua 1:9 NLT*)

S.P.A.C.E. P.E.T.S. Bible Study Worksheet

Date _____ Passage that I am studying _____

S = Sin do I need to Confess?	
P = Promise do I find in what I read?	
A = Attitude of mine do I need to change?	
C = Command do I need to keep?	
E = Example do I need to follow?	
P = Prayer do I need to Pray?	
E = Error do I need to avoid?	
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