

How to Study the Bible in Four Easy Steps

**ANGELA THORNTON
WISEWORD MINISTRIES**

Foundational Scripture

- Joshua 1:8 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.
- Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

How to Study the Bible in Four Easy Steps

1. Pray
2. Observation
3. Interpretation
4. Application

Introduction

Many who love the Bible, don't study it as they would like. Taking a deep dive into God's Word is sometimes seen as tedious or difficult. As a result, believers don't get to fully know the Father through the Scriptures. An article on the website bible.org says there are two basic reasons people don't study the Bible more: 1) they're not motivated and 2) they don't have a method that works.

How to Study the Bible in 4 Easy Steps encourages individual study to develop a more intimate and deeply rewarding experience with God. *How to Study the Bible* highlights many methods of Bible study while focusing primarily on ***Inductive Bible Study***. Some of the topics it discusses include:

- Why you should study the Bible
- Basic Principles of Bible study
- How to begin your Bible study
- Inductive Bible study
- Bible study tools and resources including websites, software, etc.

Introduction

Some of the topics it discusses include:

- Why you should study the Bible
- Basic Principles of Bible study
- How to begin your Bible study
- Inductive Bible study
- Bible study tools and resources including websites, software, etc.

Those who use *How to Study the Bible in 4 Easy Steps* will develop confidence to read, study and understand God's Word on their own with an ignited passion and focus.

Why You Should Study the Bible

- **It is without error - Proverbs 30:5-6 (CJB)** ⁵ *Every word of God's is pure; he shields those taking refuge in him.* ⁶ *Don't add anything to his words, or he will rebuke you, and you be found a liar.* The Word of the Lord is perfect and pure. It needs no additions or deletions. To do so will bring a rebuke from the Lord.
- **It is THE authority - Psalm 119:89 (NASB)** *Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.* There is no other source when looking for divine authority. God's Word is settled. Forever. In heaven. If you receive A "word" from someone, check it against THE Word to see if it comes into agreement. If you are to know what God is saying, you must dig deep into what He has said. Write it down. Meditate on it day and night. The Lord will reveal if it is of Him.

Why You Should Study the Bible

- **Its purpose never fails** - Isaiah 55:10-11 (CJB) 10 *For just as rain and snow fall from the sky and do not return there, but water the earth, causing it to bud and produce, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 so is My word that goes out from My mouth— it will not return to Me unfulfilled, but it will accomplish what I intend, and cause to succeed what I sent it to do.”* In whole or in part, the Bible is infallible.
- **It is all-sufficient** - It contains an answer to every question. Everything a believer in Christ needs to know to live a victorious Christian life can be found between Genesis and Revelation.

Why You Should Study the Bible

- We can compare studying the Bible with fishing. If we throw the line in shallow water, become impatient, and give up, we're likely only to catch a minnow. But when we throw our line into the deep and patiently wait, we are more likely we are to receive a great reward.
- In short, we should read, study, and meditate on the Bible because it is God's perfect, all-sufficient, never-failing manifesto to us. It is His Word, His guide, His promise, and His instructions to and for us. It is how He chooses to equip us.

Why You Should Study the Bible

- The Bible is God's never-changing Word.
- It is as relevant today as it was during the days of Adam and Eve.
- It is as powerful today as it was when Christ healed the sick and raised the dead.
- Its prophecies are as accurate today as they were in days of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah or the other great prophets.
- It is same measuring stick we must use today to know the false teacher from one who is called by God.
- To be a successful Christ-follower, we must first read the Word. After we've read the Word, we must dig deeper and study the Word. Only then can we know and apply the Word.

Step 1: PRAY

Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND
UNDERSTANDING

Prayer and Preparation

- Find a quiet place to read and study the Word (make it personal space where you will meet God daily).
- If worship music helps, play your favorite song(s).
- Ask the Lord to speak to you and to open your eyes to see the wonderful things in His Word.

Prayer and Preparation

- Thank Him for the Holy Spirit who will help you understand what you will read and study.
- Thank Him for the knowledge and the ability to apply what you learn
- Remember, this is YOUR time to talk to God, GO FOR IT! It's just You and Your Father! He's got your attention & you've got His!

Step 2: Observation

Proverbs 30:5-6

WHAT DOES IT SAY? LITERALLY

Observation

- Observe the obvious (e.g., people, places, events, facts, and truths).
- Write out what it says if it's only a few verses; if not, read them aloud at least twice. Trust me on this, it will help you memorize and better understand Scripture.
- If there are words or phrases you don't understand, jot them down for further study.
- Make note of anything that stands out to you (e.g., a repeated word, phrase or if you notice the person speaking changes, as in Ps. 91:14-16).

-
- Have a spiral notepad, journal or notebook to take notes.
 - Have a set of colored pencils or a multi-colored pen to mark your Bible with verses that stick out to you (they are helpful, but not necessary).
 - Read the verse/passage/chapter.
 - Read it again, one word at a time. That way you read what it says and not what you think it says.

Step 3: Interpretation

2 Tim. 3:16-17

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? SPIRITUALLY

Interpretation

Ask yourself

- The 5 W's & H (who, what, when, where, why, and how).
- Notice who is speaking. To whom are they speaking? What's the subject? What are the instructions/warnings?
- How will they be carried out? With whom? Why?
- If it's an event, when did it take place? Where? Why?

Interpretation

Ask yourself:

- What is the spiritual lesson or principle I noticed?
- What happened in the text that I should follow?
 - Is there something they did that I should do?
 - Is there something they said or did that I should avoid?
 - Is there a command I should obey?

Ask yourself:

- What is the personal lesson I can take away?
 - Is there a warning I should heed?
 - Is there a promise or a blessing I should claim?

Interpretation

Meditate: on the lessons you learned spiritually. Write them out in question form. Listen for God to speak through His Word. He's standing at the door, knocking waiting to speak to you (Rev 3:20).

This is the hard part. It's also the best part. Don't rush through it. The Lord wants to speak to you. He wants to show you great and mighty things (Jer. 33:3).

Remember you've talked (when you prayed), now it's time to LISTEN earnestly with an open heart and open mind as the Lord speaks to you.

Step 4: *Application* Phil. 4:9

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? PERSONALLY

Application

- Ask the Father what are the spiritual and personal lessons you should take away. Prayerfully and objectively listen and wait on God to reveal His plans for you.
- He may not speak to you in every verse, passage or chapter, but know that He will speak. When He does, record it your Bible or journal, making note of the book, chapter and verse.

Meditate

- Write the lessons you learned as personal questions.
- How does the meaning of this passage, verse or chapter apply to me?
- What do I sense God is saying to me or about me? Is it a promise? Is it encouragement or is it conviction?
- Now that I know what God says, and what He means, what changes must I make in my life?
- How do I put these truths into practice? How do I live this out?

Helpful Tips

- Before you open the Bible, pray first.
- The Word of God will minister to you because it is living, active and sharper than a two-edged sword. However, we must always study the word objectively, rather than the subjectively. Remember, the goal is not just to look for something that proves a point or agrees with your doctrine.
- Study God's Word looking for what He says, what He means and how you can live that out. If you do, I promise it will speak to your heart, big time.

Helpful Tips

- Always let Scripture interpret itself. Don't read anything into it or take anything away from it.
- Context will always rule. Context means that which goes with the text. For example, when you think of the Proverbs 31 woman, do you aspire to be her or think she's too perfect? Upon closer reading, you will find she had help, LOTS of it. She was not superwoman with a cape; she was a businesswoman with employees.
- One final note about context: I heard a pastor say, when you take the text out of context, all you're left with is the CON! You don't want that to happen.

Helpful Tips

- No matter how much we know what it says and what it means, we must apply what we learn, otherwise, we will never benefit from it.
- Studying the Bible is like you and God on either end of a two-way radio. It's not God on a megaphone or you on a microphone. No need to yell, He can hear you and He speaks often in the quietness of a still small voice.
- The best version of the Bible to own is the one you will read and study. Here is a website that clearly describes the differences in the many Bible versions:
www.mardel.com/bibleTranslationGuide

Resources

- **Blue Letter Bible** (an excellent online resource – www.blueletterbible.org). This **free** resource has several versions of the Bible as well as commentaries and the ability to look up words in the original languages.
- **Bible Study Tools**(easy to use for quick Scripture look-up) – free online Bible website for verse search and in-depth studies.www.biblestudytools.com
- For a comprehensive study of the Psalms, Charles Spurgeon’s *Treasury of David* is an excellent source. Every verse of every Psalm has a written commentary (<http://www.spurgeon.org/treasury/treasury.php>). Good news, it’s also **FREE**.
- **Bible Translations Guide:** <https://www.mardel.com/bibletranslationguide>

Resources (Paid)

- **Logos Bible Software** - easy-to-use tools and a massive theological library, Logos 10. Pinpoint answers in seconds, study the Word in its cultural context, uncover meaning in the original languages, and answer questions with confidence. (This study tool is an investment, but it's worth it.)

Suggested Bible Versions

- New American Standard (NASB)- my personal favorite because it's a word for word translation
- English Standard Version (ESV) – I use it often
- New Living Translation (NLT) – Written in contemporary language
- Christian Standard (CSB) – becoming a favorite because it keeps the original meaning and it's easy to read.
- King James Version (KJV) – Traditional standard bearer
- Amplified Version (Amp) – Added amplification of meanings
- New International Version (NIV) – Best-selling translation

Connect with me:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/angela.thornton.7946/>

Instagram: wiseword10

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/AngelaThornton407>