

SEARCHING FOR TREASURE

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THE ABC METHOD

Well, are you keeping up? Are you enjoying your new look into God's Word? It is rich in information to help you grow and live your life...and Bible Study is the means of harvest! We have learned the **Observation, Interpretation, Application** method and the **Verse Analysis** method to begin to dig into the Bible. Do you like these methods? Today we're going to begin a bit deeper study with the **ABC Method**. This will allow you to begin to see things from a more complete view.

So far we have been choosing a verse or a couple of verses. Now we up the ante. This time you need to carefully choose a chapter from a New Testament book! Now, before you go on, carefully and prayerfully read it at least two to three times. You should try reading it silently, then aloud. You may want to try reading it by pausing after each verse to think about what you have read.

As you read the chapter, begin to think of what it is saying. Decide on what the overall subject is. It is best to have a *scratch* piece of paper handy to write on. Now, while your read and think of what the chapter is saying, jot down some titles that might come to mind. A **Title** is a couple of words that describes the overall content of the passage. The best titles are between 2 – 10 words. Carefully select from your list what you believe to be the best **Title** for the chapter.

You should also write down a couple of verses that you think are the **Best Verse(s)** in the passage. They may or may not contain the main theme of the passage. Now study them until you can decide on the *Best Verse* or *Verses* (no more than 3 in a row) or one you think contains the central them of the chapter.

Through careful reading of the passage, did God **Challenge** you in any way? Was there something God told you to stop doing a habit to break? Or was there an issue He spoke to you about beginning in your life? List the verse or verses from where God spoke to you. Now write the lesson you have learned from that verse, in your own words. Then write how you will begin to change. Just like we learned for *application* you must make it personal. Something like...*I will begin to...or I will avoid _____ by _____* . It could be something like asking for forgiveness to a person you have hurt, memorizing a verse, or doing a service project.

While you are reading the chapter, jot down any questions you might have. Try to be as complete as possible in listing them. Then do your best to research an answer. You may want to ask someone for help, or look it up yourself in some Bible research materials (like a concordance, Bible dictionary, or commentary – we will discuss theses later). List these questions, and the verses they come from under the heading **Difficulties**.

After you have completed your reading, and listing of the **Title**, **Best Verse**, **Challenge**, and **Difficulties**, all you left to do is complete the **Essence** of the chapter. This is either a short summary of the passage or a simple outline of what it says. This sounds much harder than it really is. By now, you are very familiar with this chapter. Try to simply summarize what the chapter is saying. Remember not to get side-tracked on any one issue, but cover the entire passage.

Let's review... As you are reading list and then perfect the following items:

- A Title
- B est Verse
- C hallenge
- D ifficulties
- E ssence

Now look carefully at an **ABC Study** straight from my quiet time.

THE ABC METHOD

BOOK: John PASSAGE: 15:1-27

A. TITLE: Jesus... the Source of Power

B. BEST VERSE: John 15:5

C. CHALLENGE:

Verse of the Challenge: John 15:4

Lesson of the Challenge: I must *abide* in Jesus and allow Him to abide in me... it's the only way I can be impacting.

Application of the Challenge: It's easy to focus on myself, those around me, and things in my life. I am reminded from this passage, that I must focus on Jesus and abide in Him! I will concentrate on it this week... thinking about Him and fully allowing Him to abide in me! I know it is my source of power.

D. DIFFICULTIES:

Verse	Question
2	How does God prune me away?
7	If I don't abide in Him... will He not hear me?
16	I didn't choose Him? ... I thought I did!
26	Who is the Helper? (I studied and found it is the Holy Spirit)

E. ESSENCE:

Jesus... the Source of Power (John 15:1-27)

- I. I must Abide (1-8)
 - A. Jesus is the Vine (1-2)
 - B. Jesus keeps me clean (3)
 - C. Jesus is the Power (4-8)
 1. He helps me bear fruit (4-6)
 2. He helps me pray (7-8)

- II. I must Obey (9-17)

- A. It will help me to abide (9-10)
- B. It will give me joy (11)
- C. It will help me to love (12-14)
- D. It will make me a friend of God (15-17)

III. I must be Hated (18-25)

- A. The world will hate you (18-22)
 - 1. Because you are not of the world (19)
 - 2. It hated Jesus (19-20)
 - 3. You will convict them (21-22)
- B. Jesus is sending a Helper to get me through this (23-27)

Jesus, the Source of Power (John 15:1-27)

Jesus is the vine, I MUST be connected to Him. If I am, I will bear fruit...if I am not, I will not bear fruit. So...it is clear whether I am connected to Him or not. If I abide in Him, my prayers will have meaning and effectiveness. This will be a sign that I am a disciple.

To abide in Him, I must obey what He has commanded me. If I do, I will be full of joy and fruitfulness. Others will see God in me. I didn't choose God, but He chose me and chose me to remain.

When I abide, others in the world will not like me. This because I am convicting them of their sin. They didn't like Jesus, and I am no better than He of course! Jesus sent a Helper to get me through this and guide me.

THE ABC METHOD

Scratch Sheet

BOOK: _____

PASSAGE: _____

TITLE

BEST VERSE

CHALLENGES (include the verse)

DIFFICULTIES (include the verse)

ESSENCE

THE ABC METHOD

BOOK: Philippians

PASSAGE: 3:1-21

A. TITLE:

B. BEST VERSE:

C. CHALLENGE:

Verse of the Challenge: _____

Lesson of the Challenge: _____

Application of the Challenge: _____

D. DIFFICULTIES:

Verse

Question
