

# SEARCHING FOR TREASURE

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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE FOR IT'S ALL IT'S WORTH  
by Tim Parsons

# PREFACE

The Bible is a book, rich with the nutrients necessary for us to *grow-up* in our Christian faith. Unfortunately, many people never tap into its resources. Most of us choose to simply live our lives without the needed sustenance to develop spiritually. This book is an attempt to teach you the beginning steps to spiritual *self-feeding*. It is designed to function with a discipleship mentor who will walk with you through the learning steps and allow you to complete the Bible studies for yourself. *Make sure you do each of them carefully!* When you have finished with this manual, you will be able to dissect a passage in the Bible and apply it to your own life. Be warned...this is life changing stuff!

# NOTICE

Much of this material is taken from *The Navigator Bible Studies Handbook* copy written 1974 by Navpress. It is intended strictly for one-on-one discipleship and should be used in conjunction with the handbook.

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# SEARCHING FOR TREASURE

## An Introduction to Bible Study

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

**Proverbs 2:1-6**

What are the conditions for *understanding* and *finding* the *knowledge of God*?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

Where does *wisdom* come from?

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see James 1:5 for further study

## THE JOY OF BIBLE STUDY

Read 1 Chronicles 16:27, Psalm 16:11, and Galatians 5:22.

Where does *joy* come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Psalm 119:111.

What are *statutes*? \_\_\_\_\_

There is incredible joy in getting to know our God, and the way that is done, is through study of His Word!

# WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

Read the following verses and list what they say that that the Word of God will do for you:

Psalm 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 3:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 1 \_\_\_\_\_

*Not convinced? Read on:*

1 Peter 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:33 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

What made Ezra successful? (see Ezra 7:10) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WHAT TO EXPECT

*My understanding of God to change.*

*My love for God to deepen.*

*My values to be adjusted.*

*My daily life to be impacted.*

*My desire for God to explode!*

## LAYING A PROPER FOUNDATION

The Bible is the Literal Word of God

Read 2 Timothy 3:16

What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Bible is Authoritative*

*The Bible is God's means of revealing His Truth to His People*

Read John 8:31-32.

What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Your Study Must Be:

- Regular and Consistent
- An Investigation of the Bible Itself
- A Written Report of your Findings
- Personally Applied to your Life

Read Psalm 119:59-60

What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“Pass-on-able”

## HOW DO I BEGIN?

1. Confess and Clear Up my Fellowship with God  
Read 1 John 1:9
2. Pray for God Reveal Himself through His Word
3. Depend on the Holy Spirit – the Author of the Bible to Show Things to You  
Read John 14:26
4. Be Willing to Obey

## ARE YOU READY?

# OBSERVATION INTERPRETATION APPLICATION

The first method we will try, although very simple, is one of my personal favorites. After carefully choosing a portion of scripture to be studied, we will examine it from three angles: **observation** – an overall look at the passage within its’ context; **interpretation** – how we should understand it; and **application** – how we can make it work in our own lives.

## OBSERVATION

When we observe a passage, we back up and take a careful look at everything about it. This takes time and a willingness to learn. We must not come at this with *predetermined ideas*, but with an open heart. You make accurate *observations* by careful study. There are six important questions you should ask while performing an *observation* of a passage.

- **Who** is involved?
- **What** is happening?
- **Where** does it take place? (What is the setting?)
- **When** did it occur?
- **Why** did it happen? What is the purpose?
- **How** were things accomplished?

## INTERPRETATION

During this part of our study, we begin to determine what the author means and why it was put there by God. We will try and answer the question, “*What does it mean?*”

To properly *interpret* a passage, we must carefully read and understand what precedes and follows it. This is called the *context* of the passage. Sometimes it is necessary to read the whole book to fully understand a passage.

We must also remember that most of our Bibles divide scripture into chapters and verses, but that was not the way the original letter was written.



## APPLICATION

This is the stage of putting God's Word into practice in our lives – allow it to change us.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Look up the following verses and write a brief summary of what each is saying:

Psalm 119:9 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:22-25 \_\_\_\_\_

I must warn you, this is the difficult part! Most people do great with observation and interpretation, but never allow God's Word to do its *clean-up* work in their lives. Work hard at *application*, it's VERY important!

You can use the following steps to get you started:

**S** Is there a *sin* for me to confess and avoid?

**P** Is there a *promise* from God to claim?

**E** Is there an *example* for me to follow?

**C** Is there a *command* for me to obey?

**K** How can this passage increase my *knowledge* of God and His Word?

Now it's time for you to try it – but first let's look together at an example.

# OBSERVATION INTERPRETATION APPLICATION (EXAMPLE)

## PASSAGE:

“ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup>Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup>So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree...” Daniel 6:10-12a

## OBSERVATION:

What do I see?

Daniel loved God. His obedience to God was not deterred by others around him. He prayed to God unashamedly (just as before) – even though he risked death. Others were watching and this brought great conviction into their lives.

Who?

Daniel – God – evil people out to get him.

What?

Daniel was being set up and he knew it. His jealous companions were trying to kill him or get him to stop worshiping God. Daniel prayed anyway. They caught him and turned him over to the king.

Where?

Ancient Babylon

When?

Old Testament B.C.

Why?

The purpose seems to be to illustrate Daniel’s commitment to God, God’s protection of His children, and the clear importance of daily prayer.

How?

Daniel was warned – he prayed anyway – he was turned over to the king to be thrown in the den of lions.

## INTERPRETATION:

What does it mean?

Being obedient to the Lord isn't always fun – and it isn't always easy. Others are always upset when our righteous lifestyle convicts them of their own wicked one. Authorities are not always fair. But...obedience does not depend on these factors. I must obey what God told me PERIOD...no matter the consequences. God will always take care of His own. As I read of Daniel's life in the first 5 chapters and of what happens to follow this story, I see that God is clearly at work in Daniel's life as He is in mine.

## APPLICATION:

How can this study change me?

I have come to once again appreciate the importance of daily time with God. It's worth risking my life for. I must spend time with God...no matter what. It's not always easy or convenient – but it's the right thing to do. God will honor it in my life.

**Sin to avoid?**

Failure to spend time daily with God. Fear of what others think and consequences.

**Promises to claim?**

God will protect me and honor me when I obey. He won't forsake me – even if others do.

**Examples to follow?**

Daniel's clear example of obedience to God and intense desire to spend time with God.

**Commands to obey?**

No commands in this passage.

**Knowledge to add?**

No new knowledge to add.

**As a result of this study I will change:** my attitude toward daily time with God. I will make it a priority no matter what others think, no matter whether it's convenient or not. I will trust God with the details. In short, nothing will block out my time in the Word and in prayer.