

SEARCHING FOR TREASURE

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TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

Many people approach Bible Study from a very dull, boring perspective. They are going to study the Bible whether it kills them or not, and they have already decided that it probably will! It is important to study the Bible thoroughly and completely – but it ought to be fun! God is a fun God...and His Word should be enjoyable to us as His children.

One great way to make the Word of God come alive is to study the things that interest you. That is where **Topical Bible Study** comes in. With the *Topical* method, *you* choose what you will study, research it, and draw some Biblical conclusions that will affect your life.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What are the four things that Bible Study should do in our lives?

Write down what each of them mean: _____

The Word of God is very *profitable* in our lives, but we must apply it. Much like medicine will make you well – but you must take the right medicine at the right time. What do you need right now in your life? What are your questions – concerns – struggles? Let God minister to you through His Word.

As we study the Bible *Topically*, we must complete the following seven steps:

1. Choose the Topic

This may be very easy for you, especially if there are things that you've always wanted to study about. You may even want to begin to keep a list of topics to study in the back of your Bible, so that as the opportunity arises, you can study them. These can be simply things that you are interested in, questions you may have or that someone has asked you, or even part of another continuing study that you are doing. Be careful that you don't make your choice of subject too broad. For example **Faith** is way to compassing...you might consider a narrower topic such as **My Faith in God, God's Faithfulness to me, or The Faith of a Child**. Here are some topics that you might begin to draw from as you form your list: **Anger, Courage, Dating, Faith, Fear, Fruitfulness, Giving, Godliness, Grace, Holiness, The Holy Spirit, Humility, Integrity, The Lordship of Christ, Love, Obedience, Parents, Patience, Prayer, Priorities, Purity, My Quiet Time, Salvation, Scripture Memory, Self-Discipline, Sin,**

Stress, Thankfulness, Thought Life, Witnessing, The Word of God, or Worship.

2. Select Scripture Passages

Once you have the topic secured (and narrowed down) you now have the job of looking up what God has to say about it. Just like with the **Search the Scriptures** method, you now need to use some Bible reference tools. I would recommend using a *concordance*, *Topical Bible*, or *computer tools*. Make a list of all of the passages on your topic and look at each one. After carefully reading and studying each, **decide on the best 10 or so and record them.**

3. Summarize or Outline

Now you need to begin to put together what God is saying from His Word about your topic. The way in which to do this is to begin by summarizing (or outlining) each of your 10 selected passages. These summaries should be rather brief. After completing *in writing* the 10 summaries or outlines, you should then read over each. Now it's time to put them all together into one summary or outline covering all 10 passages. This should be somewhat conclusive of your study on the topic you have selected.

4. Find the Key Verse

As you study ask God to show you a **key verse** and then write it out. Then you may want to even memorize it to enhance your study.

5. Collect Illustrations

You now need to find some illustrations that will make your topical study personal and come alive. These can be other Bible stories, from nature, your own life, from books or poems, or even from the experiences of your family or friends. Attach them to your study and show what passage that they illustrate.

6. Record Problems

List the questions that puzzle you or the things that you would have trouble explaining to others. Try and find the answers if you can.

7. Write Your Application

Now you need to review everything you have done so far. Ask God to show you what He wants to do in your life through this study. Now you need to write a *statement of truth* found in the verse or verses that you have chosen for your application. This should also include a statement or two about the need or condition in your life that God is speaking to you about changing. Then you need to write out a *simple plan of action* to make the needed changes. This is a very important part of your study!

TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC: *Pride in My Life*

PASSAGES STUDIED:

Passage	The Thought Relative to my topic
2 Chronicles 26:16	Pride led to Uzziah's down fall.
Proverbs 8:13	God hates pride.
Proverbs 11:12	Pride brings disgrace.
Proverbs 13:10	Pride breeds quarrels.
Ezekiel 28:2	Pride was the original sin.
Amos 6:8	God detests pride.
James 1:9	Humble circumstances are a High Position.
1 Corinthians 10:12	Be careful or you will fall.

SUMMARY:

Pride is very distasteful. God hates it and so should I. It has led to many a person's downfall. It brings disgrace into our lives. Many of the family and church fights we have – even those among friends comes out of pride. Pride was the original sin of Lucifer and is the root of all sin. God detests it!

I should remember the consequences of pride and should be happy in humble circumstances. It is through those that God is glorified, then He can lift me up. When I am standing, I need to be mindful of pride or I will fall hard!

FAVORITE VERSE:

“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!” (1 Corinthians 10:12)

ILLUSTRATIONS:

“Pride is as safely the sign of destruction as the change of mercury in the weather-glass is the sign of rain; and far more infallibly so than that.” Spurgeon's Morning and Evening Devotion (1 Corinthians 10:12)

King David's great sin

PROBLEMS:

Passage	Question
Proverbs 11:2	Can I disgrace God by my pride?

1 Corinthians 10:12
Ezekiel 28:2

How can I avoid falling because of pride?
What areas is pride sin in my life?

APPLICATION:

STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL TRUTH: God hates pride and so should I...it leads to destruction in my life.

PLAN OF ACTION: I must analyze what areas that pride has a strong hold on in my life. I must deal with each one. I will ask my accountability partner for help in dealing with this in my life.

TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC: _____ (make sure it is narrow enough)

PASSAGES STUDIED:

Passage	The Thought Relative to my Topic
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SUMMARY:

FAVORITE VERSE: (write it out) _____

ILLUSTRATIONS: (show what verse they tie to) _____

PROBLEMS:

Passage

Question

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

APPLICATION:

STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL TRUTH: _____
