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Train & Multiply™

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How to Study the Bible



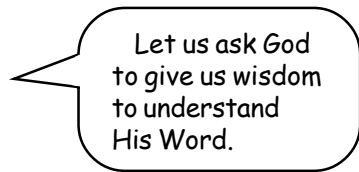
Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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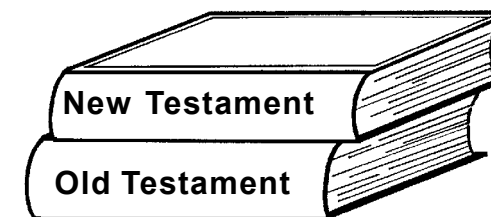
T&M™



The Bible is the Word of God. It was written by the prophets and other authors inspired by the Spirit of God. There were approximately 40 authors altogether.

1 Thessalonians	1	2	3	4	5					
2 Thessalonians	1	2	3							
1 Timothy	1	2	3	4	5	6				
2 Timothy	1	2	3	4						
Titus	1	2	3							
Philemon	1									
Hebrews	1 11	2 12	3 13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
James	1	2	3	4	5					
1 Peter	1	2	3	4	5					
2 Peter	1	2	3							
1 John	1	2	3	4	5					
2 John	1									
3 John	1									
Jude	1									
Revelation	1 11 21	2 12 22	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7 17	8 18	9 19	10 20

Mark	1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7	8	9	10
Luke	1 11 21	2 12 22	3 13 23	4 14 24	5 15	6 16	7 17	8 18	9 19	10 20
John	1 11 21	2 12	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7 17	8 18	9 19	10 20
Acts	1 11 21	2 12 22	3 13 23	4 14 24	5 15 25	6 16 26	7 17 27	8 18 28	9 19	10 20
Romans	1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7	8	9	10
1 Corinthians	1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7	8	9	10
2 Corinthians	1 11	2 12	3 13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Galatians	1	2	3	4	5	6				
Ephesians	1	2	3	4	5	6				
Philippians	1	2	3	4						
Colossians	1	2	3	4						



In the Bible we find law, history, prophecy, the life of Christ, and letters to the new churches. The central theme of the entire Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The message of the Bible is summarized in one verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)

The word “Testament” in the Bible means:

- ☐ a spiritual experiment.
- ☐ a firm agreement.

The Bible was inspired by God. God the Holy Spirit guided its writers. They wrote without error. The Bible is the Word of God - it is what GOD wants to say to us.

The Bible contains mysteries, but it is not a book of magic or a good-luck charm. It is supremely practical. Let us not seek mysteries in every phrase. Let us meditate on and obey what is clear. Do not seek guidance by simply leafing through the Bible, choosing verses at random, and out of context.

If you do not understand an older version of the Bible, perhaps get a modern translation.

The central theme of the Bible is Christ. Why?

The inspiration of the Bible refers to:

- ☐ its mystery.
- ☐ God's guidance of the writers.

The words of the Bible are what God Himself intended.



Daniel	1 11	2 12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hosea	1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14	5	6	7	8	9	10
Joel	1	2	3							
Amos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Obadiah	1									
Jonah	1	2	3	4						
Micah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Nahum	1	2	3							
Habakkuk	1	2	3							
Zephaniah	1	2	3							
Haggai	1	2								
Zechariah	1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14	5	6	7	8	9	10
Malachi	1	2	3	4						
Matthew	1 11 21	2 12 22	3 13 23	4 14 24	5 15 25	6 16 26	7 17 27	8 18 28	9 19	10 20

Proverbs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31									
Ecclesiastes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12								
Song of Songs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Isaiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66				
Jeremiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52								
Lamentations	1	2	3	4	5					
Ezekiel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48		

HOW DO WE FIND VERSES IN THE BIBLE?

In worship services and Bible studies we frequently look for verses. Help new Christians to find them. Here is an example of how to teach them to find verses.

We will use 1 Peter 2:2.

1 Peter = the book
2 = the chapter
:2 = the verse

- First find the book of 1 Peter in the Table of Contents at the beginning of the Bible. This indicates the page number where you will find 1 Peter. Look for this page in your Bible (any Bible book can be found this way). Then look for chapter 2.
- The chapters begin with large numbers in the Bible text. Thumb through the pages to find large number 2.

- When you have found the large number 2 for the chapter, look for the little number 2. This is the number for verse 2.

Read and meditate on Psalm 19:7-11.

☐ Mark this box when you have read it.

WHY DO WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

God speaks to us through the Bible. We study it for several reasons:

1. The Bible instructs us in righteousness.

☐ Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Everything that the Bible tells us is true. We rule our lives by it.
 Its purpose is: *“that the man of God be perfect, prepared for every good work.”*

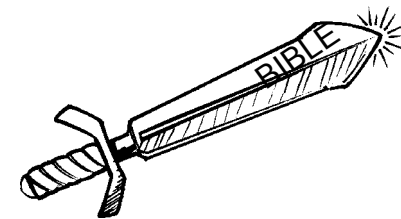
2. The Bible is our weapon against evil.

☐ Read Ephesians 6:12-17 and Hebrews 4:12.

Ezra	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nehemiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13							
Esther	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Job	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42								
Psalms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150

Judges	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21									
Ruth	1	2	3	4						
1 Samuel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31									
2 Samuel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24						
1 Kings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22								
2 Kings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25					
1 Chronicles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
2 Chronicles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36				

Our struggle is against evil spirits. Because of this, we need God's armor. Our sword is God's word. (Ephesians 6:17) It has the power because it is what God Himself says.



3. The Lord Jesus constantly quoted verses from the Bible, especially when He was tested by Satan. (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)
4. The Bible brings us hope.
☐ Read Romans 15:4 and 1 John 5:13.

The Bible gives examples from the lives of many men of God. We see the patience of God with us and we see that when we die, we will live with Him.

Above all, through the Bible the Holy Spirit enlightens us and helps us to know the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT DO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT DEAL WITH?

The New Testament begins with the GOSPELS: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are the basis of the New Testament. They tell of Christ's life, death and resurrection here on earth. As we read them we know Christ better. The word "gospel" means "good news."

The book of the Acts continues the story. It tells what the apostles did after the Lord's ascension to heaven. They started the first churches in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The EPISTLES (letters) follow. The apostles wrote them to the churches that they had started, and to other Christians.

We understand the Epistles better if we have read the Gospels and Acts first. REVELATION is the last book. It deals with prophecies of the future.

Genesis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Exodus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Leviticus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36				
Deuteronomy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34						
Joshua	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24						

BIBLE READING CHART

To help you read all the Bible systematically, we include the following Bible reading chart.

If you read three chapters each weekday and five on Sundays, you will finish the Bible in a year. You may find it hard to read so much at a time. Don't get discouraged if you get behind; it's no law to finish in a year! The important thing is to keep your mind focused on God's Word. For new Christians we recommend starting to read in the New Testament gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Then read the rest of the New Testament and intermingle it with books of the Old Testament—Psalms, Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, etc.

If you read seven each day, you will finish in less than six months.

“X” Mark the chapters when you have read them.

THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS FOUR DIVISIONS

1. THE GOSPELS:

Matthew	Mark
Luke	John

2. HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH:

Acts

3. LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLES:

Romans	1 and 2 Corinthians
Galatians	Ephesians
Philippians	Colossians
1 and 2 Thessalonians	1 and 2 Timothy
Titus	Philemon
Hebrews	James
1 and 2 Peter	1, 2 and 3 John, and Jude

4. PROPHECY:

Revelation

THE OLD TESTAMENT ALSO HAS FOUR DIVISIONS

1. THE LAW OF MOSES:

Genesis	Exodus
Leviticus	Numbers
Deuteronomy	

(called the “Pentateuch” which means the “five books”)

2. THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE PROMISED LAND:

Joshua	Judges
Ruth	1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings	1 and 2 Chronicles
Ezra	Nehemiah
Esther	

3. POETRY:

Job	Psalms
Proverbs	Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs	

PRACTICAL WORK

- Read the Bible systematically, a chapter or two each day.
Mark the chapters that you read, in the “Bible Reading Chart” on the next pages.
- Help your people to prayerfully read and apply the Bible daily.
- Teach your people to know the Bible well:
 - what it is,
 - its inspiration,
 - how to find texts,
 - why we study it,
 - the divisions of the Old and New Testament,
 - why we pray before reading the Bible,
 - observation,
 - interpretation,
 - application.

5. The New Testament tells us clearly what we should do, and helps us to understand the Old Testament. Do you recall the three things we do to study God's Word?

We Observe, Interpret and Apply

First, What is our focus as we OBSERVE a passage?

Answer: We observe what it says.

Second, How do we INTERPRET it?

Answer: We discern what it means. We look for: Who wrote it? - Where? - When? Who appears? About whom? Why?

Third, How do we APPLY it?

Answer: We point out what God wants us to do about it.

4. PROPHECY:

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

and the twelve minor prophets (Hosea through Malachi)

Let us remember that we live under the New Covenant, not the Old. The Old Testament is part of the Word of God and contains many examples that help us understand God's will. Nevertheless, we interpret it in the light of the New Testament, because we belong to the New Covenant.

Some false sects base their doctrine on laws that God no longer requires of men.

Why do we base our doctrine on the New Testament?

A PRACTICAL WAY TO SUBMIT OURSELVES TO GOD'S WORD



So that God's Word penetrates every aspect of our being, we must:

1. **OBSERVE** it: see what it says.
2. **INTERPRET** it: clarify what it means.
3. **APPLY** it: let it guide us.

Observation

What does the passage say?

Here we look carefully at what the words in the passage actually say. First we ask God to shed His light on the passage, so we can receive what He wants to say to us. Without His illumination, we do not fully understand God's Word. (1 Corinthians 2:11-16, Ephesians 1:18)

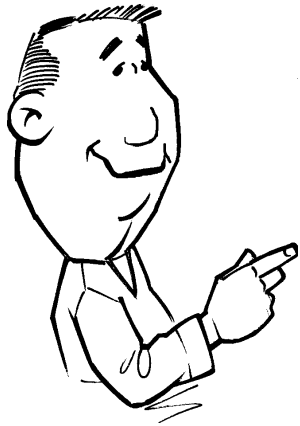
SUMMARY TEST

Mark the correct answers.

1. The Bible is:
 - ☐ a book of magic and mysticism.
 - ☐ a collection of 66 books inspired by God.
2. The central theme of this inspired collection of books is:
 - ☐ the Jewish people.
 - ☐ the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. God inspired this infallible book about Jesus Christ, as He guided the writers by means of:
 - ☐ the wisdom of the church.
 - ☐ the Holy Spirit.
4. Christians belong to the New Covenant. For this reason, we do not use the Old Testament in the same way today as we use the New. How should we use the Old Testament?
 - ☐ we can forget it as it applies only to ancient times.
 - ☐ we read it in the light of the New Testament.

Interpretation

(Matthew 15:32-39)



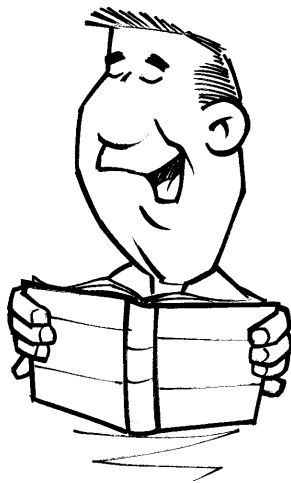
What does the story mean? This is like when God fed the children of Israel in the desert, in Exodus, when He provided for them. (Exodus 16) Jesus is doing what God did then. He shows great compassion for the people in need.

Application

(Matthew 15: 32-39)

We apply this by receiving God's compassion in Christ, and showing it to others.

I will remember this example of the love and power of the Lord Jesus. I will trust in God's abundant provision. I will thank Him for our food and everything else He gives us each day.



“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”
(Psalm 119:18)

What a wonderful prayer (above) to prepare us for reading God's Word!

Next, we read the passage carefully, and keep going over it until we understand it.

The first rule for the correct understanding of a Bible passage is: study it in its **CONTEXT**. (The context is that which comes before and after the passage, and its historical setting: where and when it occurred.)

We do not understand a phrase unless we consider the entire paragraph. If you do not understand the paragraph, read the whole chapter. If you do not understand the chapter, read the whole book. If, after all this, you still do not understand a passage, then you certainly must not teach or preach it! Ask someone who has more

knowledge of the Bible to help you. False sects support their doctrines with isolated verses of the Bible, but they do not interpret them in agreement with their context. They misinterpret the Word of God by taking verses out of context.

Context means:

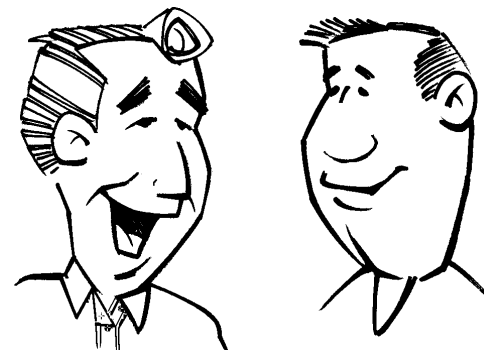
- ☐ what goes before and after a passage and the historical setting.
- ☐ the reader's opinion, based on one phrase.

Everything that surrounds a passage: what goes before and after, the historical occasion, the purpose of the writer; all this helps us to understand the meaning and importance of a text.

When you observe a passage, ask yourself the following questions:

- Who is the author?
- Where did it take place?
- When did it take place?

Now let's read
Matthew 15:32-39
carefully. Then note
the important points.



THE AUTHOR: the
apostle Matthew.

WHERE: the Lord
was on a hill near the
Sea of Galilee.

WHEN: three days
after healing many
sick people in the
same place (verse 2a).

The Lord began with seven loaves
and a few small fish. After He had
multiplied the food, and everyone
had eaten, there were seven full
baskets left.

The Lord Jesus made the seven
loaves and two fish to be enough for
thousands of people. After eating,
seven baskets of food were left over.



EXAMPLE OF THE METHOD WITH MATTHEW 15:32-39

Observation

(Matthew 15:32-39)

Let's ask the Holy Spirit to
open our eyes to see what
God has to say to us.



- Which people appear?
- About whom is it speaking?
- Why was it written?

(We consider the details, including what we do not understand.)

Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

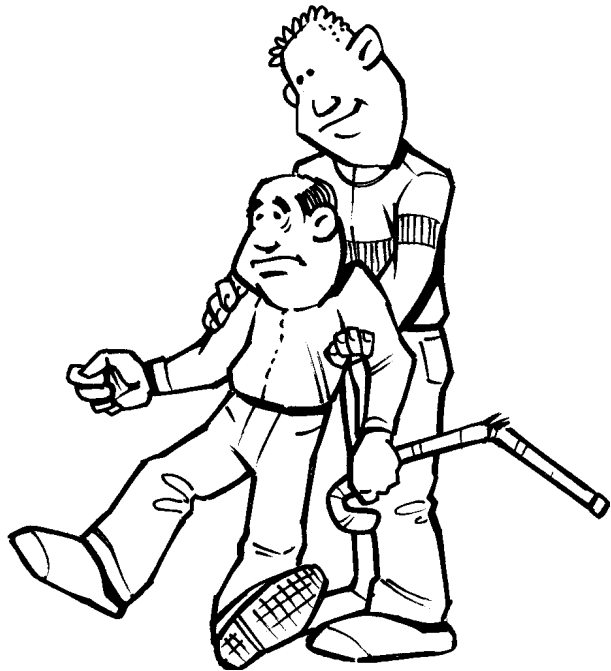
We prayerfully meditate on the Bible passage. We find help to clarify its meaning in texts about the same event or topic in other books of the Bible, maps of Bible lands, Bible dictionaries and commentaries.

We can also ask for help from someone who has more knowledge of the Bible.

Application

What does the passage guide us to do?

Our purpose in Bible study is to let God's Word penetrate our hearts (Psalm 119:9-11) and lead us to do His will. (James 1:22)



God changes our conduct, our morals, our life plans, and our attitudes toward other people. He produces love, joy, peace, kindness and the desire to do good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Let us apply the teaching daily, serving the Lord and others. Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4 teach us that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Knowing and obeying God out of love is the aim of Bible study. (James 1:22)

When we understand a Bible doctrine, it is a great joy to share it with others.

New believers normally begin with simple messages based on the Gospel.

Now, let us apply, to a particular passage, these three steps for Bible study. Please find Matthew 15:32-39 in your Bible.