

Methods of Bible Study

I. Two broad “brushstrokes” or categories of Bible study

A. _____

B. _____

II. Synthetic Study

A. Definition - study of the Bible as a _____, each book as a _____, and each book as seen in relation to _____.

“Many books of the Bible remain dead letters in the lives of Christians, mainly because their readers have never caught the large vision of truth contained in them. We need the sense of the whole before we seek to understand the parts.” – *Fuchsia Pickett*

B. For the beginning Bible student, this is where and how to begin

C. Study method: Guidelines for synthetic study

1. Begin with a translation that’s _____

2. Read _____

3. Read it _____

4. Read it _____

5. Read it _____

6. After several readings, you’ll begin to see _____

D. Seven things to look for while reading:

1. _____ – who?

2. _____ – what?

3. _____ – why written?

4. _____ – repeated words, concepts, and/or phrases

5. _____ – when?

6. _____ – where?

7. _____ – how?

III. Inductive Study

A. The careful analysis of _____ for the purpose of understanding its meaning and application.

B. Three components:

1. _____ – what does the passage say?

a) The 5 “R’s” of careful observation:

(1) R_____

(2) R_____

(3) R_____

(4) R_____

(5) R_____

2. _____ – what does it mean?

3. _____ – how should I respond?

IV. Different Kinds of Inductive Study

A. _____ study

1. Generally (but not always!) will fall into one of these classifications:

a) Doctrines

b) Events

c) Places

d) Duties

e) Words

f) Biographies

g) Dispensations

2. **CAUTIONS**

a) Don't just study _____!

b) Topical study isn't _____!

3. Observe the rules for all _____!

B. _____ study (or biographical study)

1. The study of an individual's _____.

2. Assemble all _____

a) Caution! Many different people have the same _____...

b) ...and _____ change!

3. See handout for questions to ask and how to dig

4. Ask - What does God want _____?

C. _____ studies

D. _____ study

E. _____ study

F. _____ study

General Questions for a Character Study

Taken from an unknown source given us as a handout in 1986

Here is a list of 70 questions you can use in a biographical study. You shouldn't try to use every question in a single study, but depending on the depth of your study and the time you have, select the questions you'd like to have answered. The questions are categorised into seven major divisions for easier use. As you think of other questions, add them to the list!

Reputation

1. Who wrote what we know about this person?
2. What did people say about him? What did his friends say about him?
3. What did his enemies say about him?
4. What did his family (wife/husband, children, siblings, parents) say about him?
5. What did God say about him?
6. Why do you think God allowed this person to be mentioned in the Bible?

Tests of Character

7. What were his aims and motives?
8. What was he like in his home?
9. How did he respond to failure? Did he get discouraged easily?
10. How did he respond to adversity? Did he handle criticism well?
11. How did he respond to success? Did he get proud when praised?
12. How did he respond to the trivial and mundane things in life? Was he faithful in the little things?
13. How quickly did he praise God for the good/bad things that happened to him?
14. How quickly did he obey God when told to do something?
15. How quickly did he submit to God-ordained authority?
16. What was he like when he was alone with God?

Background

17. What can you discover about his family and ancestry?
18. What does his name mean? Why was he given that name? Was it ever changed?
19. What was his home life like? How was he raised? Where was he raised?
20. What were the characteristics of his parents? Did they influence him?
21. Was there anything special about his birth?
22. Where did he live? What was his everyday life like?
23. Was he exposed to other cultures? Did they affect him in any way?
24. What was the condition of his country – politically and spiritually – during his lifetime?
25. What kind of training did he have? Did he have any schooling?
26. What was his occupation?
27. How long did he live? Where did he die? How did he die?

Significant Events

28. Was there any great crisis in his life?
29. What are the great accomplishments for which he is remembered?
30. Did he experience a divine "call"? How did he respond to it?
31. What crucial decisions did he have to make? How did they affect him? Others?
32. Did any recurring problem keep coming up in his life?

33. Where did he succeed? Where did he fail? Why?
34. How did the environment and circumstances affect him?
35. What part did he play in the history of God's plan?
36. Did he believe in the sovereignty of God (God's control over all events)?

Relationships

37. How did he get along with other people? Was he a loner? Was he a team person?
38. How did he treat other people? Did he use them, or serve them?
39. What was his/her wife/husband like? How did she/he influence him/her?
40. What were his children like? How did they influence him?
41. Who were his close companions? What were they like? How did they influence him?
42. Who were his enemies? What were they like? How did they influence him?
43. What influence did he have on others? On his nation? On other nations?
44. Did he take care of his family? How did his children turn out?
45. Did his friends and family help or hinder him in serving the Lord?
46. Did he train anyone to take his place? Did he leave a "Timothy" (disciple) behind?

Personality

47. What type of person was he? What made him the way he was?
48. Was his temperament choleric, melancholic, sanguine, or phlegmatic?
49. What were the outstanding strengths in his character? What traits did he have?
50. Did his life show any development of character as time passed? Was there growth and progression there?
51. What were his particular faults and weaknesses?
52. What were his particular sins? What steps led to these sins?
53. In what area was his greatest battle; lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or pride of life?
54. What were the results of his sins and weaknesses?
55. Did he ever get the victory over his particular sins and weaknesses?
56. What qualities made him a success or failure?
57. Was he in any way a type of Christ?

Spiritual Life

58. What personal encounters did he have with God that are recorded in Scripture?
59. What was his purpose in life? Did he try to bring glory to God?
60. What message did he preach and live? Was his life a message for or against Christ/God?
61. Did he live a separated life?
62. What did he believe? What great lessons did God teach him?
63. Why do you think God dealt with him in the manner in which He did?
64. What was his attitude toward the word of God? Did he know the Scriptures?
65. What kind of prayer life did he have? Did he have close fellowship with God?
66. Was he bold in sharing his testimony. Was he a courageous witness in times of persecution?
67. How big was his faith in God? How did he show it? Did God give him any specific promise?
68. Was he a good steward of what God had given him; time, wealth, and talents.
69. Was he filled with the Spirit? What were his spiritual gifts? Did he use them?
70. Was he eager to do God's will, willingly and without question?

When I read from my Bible, what is God saying to me through what I'm reading? Consider...:

Caption

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Word Study Worksheet

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4 Root, origin, and meaning of word

5 Observe classical uses

6 Occurrences in Bible (in each variation)

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8 Summary and personal application