

Study Guide

Here is what works for me and it's also how I prepare my bible study lessons most of the time. Massage it around to fit what is comfortable for you.

Goal:

- To establish and nurture an ongoing, vibrant and personal relationship with the Lord
- To unfold the Bible's truths and discover how to utilize that information in your life right now!
- To let the Lord himself teach and guide you through the Word and not rely on someone else's opinion or interpretation. The Bible was always meant to be a personal invitation to explore and get to know the Heart of God.

Tools:

- An open, humble heart
- An ear to hear like in Psalm 143:8 "Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; For in thee do I trust: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; For I lift up my soul unto thee." (ASV)
- A few different translations of the Bible to get multiple expressions of the same passage (I normally use KJV; ESV; ASV; YLT; and also NLV; MSG; NIV; AMP when more is better)
- A Concordance such as Young's or Strong's for the significant words and all instances of their usage throughout the Bible
- Bible dictionary or lexicon or both to get the definitions of the words in the original languages
- Topical Bible/Textbook such as Torrey's or Nave's to explore topics instead of individual words
- Bible Commentaries and similar books
- A paper notebook or computer program to make notes and observations with
- A computer program that offers all the above items (a few are listed below)

Method:

- Start with something that has caught your eye or sparked an interesting thought. It could be a single word, in which case you'd start by looking it up in a concordance to see where and how it's used throughout the Bible. If a topic or concept has gotten a hold of you, try starting with a topical reference book like Torrey's for example. It will list scriptural references under topics like 'husband' and also give subheadings like 'duty of' and more categories under those.
- Go back to the Hebrew or Greek meanings of the significant words in a passage - it is important to know what they meant when they were written and not to automatically apply contemporary meanings
- Look up the other instances of the word(s) to get a balanced view of it's meaning and usage at the time it was written. To grasp the reason for this, think about all the different uses, both formal and slang, of a simple modern word - bad.... OK, nuff said.
- Make notes of what impresses you, or speaks to you, from the scripture as a whole but also from the definitions of the individual words.
- Consult a commentary type book only after your own thoughts and impressions have reached an impasse. Or if your new findings contradict an established belief and you're seeking confirmation. Remember the goal is to make this a personal journey, not an echo of someone else's journey.
- Meditate or mull it over and think about it all for a time. Let the words and phrases paint a conceptual picture in your mind, so your soul can understand too. Let it sink in and become part of you

Online Resources:

- Amazon.com
- Christianbook.com
- BibleGateway.com - almost all bible versions and translations online

- Hebrew Lexicon
- Greek Lexicon

Computer Programs/Libraries:

- QuickVerse
- SwordSearcher
- E-Sword