



A Quick Overview

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Women's Tabletop Friendship

How to Study the Bible

Using the S.T.U.D.Y. Method

Are you searching for a new way to study your Bible but not sure which method to use? While I have not studied methods such as S.O.A.P. or H.E.A.R. or any others, I have studied using The S.T.U.D.Y. Approach and absolutely love it!

The S.T.U.D.Y. Approach has the tools you need to dig deep in the Word. You will learn the three main keys to truly seeing all there is in the book or chapter you are studying.

Some of the tools necessary for The S.T.U.D.Y. Approach are:

- Bible with wide margins for writing
- Colour pencils
- Colour pens, 4 colours at minimum and preferably archival ink to prevent bleeding through the thin pages of the bibles
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Worksheet and/or notebook for further recording

The S.T.U.D.Y. Approach

S = See and read.

T = Think and ask questions.

U = Understand and write.

D = Do the action and apply what you learned.

Y = You grow in the Word.

S + T will hone your **observation** skills.

U will help you to **interpret** the text correctly.

D + Y will be the practical **application** of what you have learned.

Prayer

All Bible Study should begin with prayer. This is key to successfully learning the Word and hearing from God. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes of understanding so you may hear what the Spirit is saying to you. The Spirit is our Comforter, Counsellor, and Teacher. Let Him teach you as you open the Word to study.

S - See and Read

In Bible study, one of the skills you need to develop is great observation skills. This comes from seeing and reading the text. When you are carefully observing the text, you will notice who the author of the book is and who the author is writing to. This leads very quickly into the next step of T - think and ask questions.

T - Think and Ask

We don't read just for the sake of reading. We are studying the Word and carefully observing the text. As you read, ask the 5 W's and H questions to clarify your observation of the text. That is, ask *who-what-where-when-why* and *how*.

Who is

- the author writing to? mentioned in the passage/chapter/book? doing something? not doing something?

What is

- the reason(s) for writing? happening or going to happen? the author cautioning or warning them about?

Where

- are the recipients? is the event(s) going to happen? was it said?

When

- will the event(s) happen? did or will something happen to a particular person or place?

Why

- will this event happen? did the author say this? this particular person? is this person singled out?

How

- will this event happen? is it to be done or completed? did the author explain the event?

As you consciously ask yourself these questions, you will notice the little details that are so easily overlooked. Pay attention to these details and make note of them, your understanding of the Word has begun. Don't be in a hurry to rush through this process, take your time to see what is there. Observing the answers to these questions as based on the Word itself, will lead to correct interpretation.

Another major part of “Thinking and Asking” is noting what words stand out to you. These are called keywords or phrases. They are important because without the keyword, the text would not have much meaning. They are often repeated as the writer wants to emphasize its importance to the passage.

U - Understand and Write

Based on what you learned while observing the text, you are ready to interpret the meaning. To interpret wisely you need to remember that context rules. The meaning of *context* is “that which goes with the text.” This means to keep in mind the surrounding verses as well as the book itself and the whole Word of God. Ask yourself if your interpretation is consistent with the purpose and theme of the book. Is it consistent with other passages? One thing you do not want to do is make the Word of God say whatever you want it to say by taking it out of context.

A quote from my former Pastor is “the best interpretation of Scripture is Scripture.” The Bible contains all the truth you need and it is God-breathed and inspired. You can trust it, depend on it and as you saturate yourself in it, it will become a part of you so that you will recognize truth from partial truth and wrong doctrine.

D - Do and Apply

Now it is time to apply what has been learned.

If we want to be *doers of the Word* as James said in chapter 1:22, then, we need to apply what we learned. Through the application, we allow God to change us to be more like His Son.

Not all Scripture passages can be applied today. There are a few things to keep in mind such as the time period. Cultural standards cannot be applied today but you can apply the biblical standards.

We need to be aware of not using Scripture erroneously to strengthen something we believe in. In this case, we need to submit to God and change our thinking to believe the Scriptures, not the other way around.

Sometimes God is showing us something new in His Word that we hadn't seen before. Or maybe He is correcting a faulty belief we have. These are situations for us to correctly apply the Word of Truth.

Y - You Grow

Once we apply what we have learned, we grow spiritually in truth and knowledge. This leads to transformation. Paul taught us that it is *by the renewing of our mind that we are transformed*. Let the Word transform you as you S.T.U.D.Y. it inductively!