



A Faithful Step

ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING
WOMEN FOR A LIFE WELL-LIVED

A
Simple Bible Study
Method:
S. O. A. P.

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"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." -Psalm 119:105

Getting Started

The point of this resource is to help you learn to study the Bible. Follow the template provided and allow yourself to sit and think about what you're reading. In the observation, you may not know what to write. Think about answering who, what, when, where, why, and how. If you can't answer it all, that's okay. Don't. Start by answering what the text provides you. If the chapter doesn't answer any of these questions, go to the beginning of the book. If the book doesn't provide the info, and you want to go deeper, then use other resources (commentaries, study Bibles or websites, etc...) to figure it out.

The goal isn't to fill up the entire page, but to allow yourself to dig in deeper, ask questions, and seek answers. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask questions or not understand. That's natural and normal.

Invite God into your study. Ask Him to open your eyes and reveal His truth. Ask Him to help you discern the truth. Then, let Him work.

x. Cynthia



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Date:

Reading: What book, chapter,
and verse did you reread?

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TEMPLATE

Scripture

What verse or verses stick out to you? Is there something that speaks to you? Something that makes you stop and wonder the meaning? Jot it down.

Observation

What did you observe from your reading. This isn't your opinion or interpretation but facts that came from the book/ chapter/verse. Can you answer who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*

Application

Apply what you just read. What does this tell me about God? How should this change the way I am living? Know that not everything will result in a specific application, but it all points back to God, and knowing this should change the way we live.

Pray

Pray over what you read. Pray for help applying . Or pray for wisdom to discern what you read.



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Fun Facts

The Bible is actually a collection of 66 books, written by ~44 authors over a period of approximately 1500 years. The authors were shepherds, kings, farmers, priests, poets, scribes, fisherman. Some were even traitors, embezzlers, adulterers, murders, and auditors.

The Catholic Bible contains 7 additional books in the Old Testament (Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach), Baruch (includes the Letters of Jeremiah), I and II Maccabees,) and additions to the book of Daniel and Esther.

The Old Testament has 39 books whereas the New Testament has 27.

The image you have of Jesus, with fair skin, light hair, and blue eyes is most likely incorrect and reflects the cultural influences of European Christians. Christ most likely had more Middle Eastern features.

The word "bible" is from the Greek ta biblia, which means "the books." The word is derived from the ancient city of Byblos. Papyrus was one of the main items traded in the city, so the Greeks took the name of the city as their word for book - biblos - which led to the name for our Bible - ta biblia.

Many numbers have specific meaning in the Bible. For example:

- Seven is the number for completeness and perfection. It derives its meaning from being tied directly to God creating all things
- The number 40 symbolizes a period of testing, trial or probation.

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Dig Deeper

The 5 W's & H**:

- **Who** are the main characters? Who wrote the passage? Who is talking? To Whom?
- **What** is happening? What are the major ideas or teachings?
- **When** did the event take place? or when will it happen? When was it said?
- **Where** does the passage take place? Where will the event happen?
- **Why** was this passage written?
- **How** is the truth revealed?

**adapted from Phylcia Masonheimer's Driven Women resource

How to decide what verse(s) to study?

- It makes you ask questions/challenges your beliefs
- It reveals a truth you've never known before (aha moment)
- It speaks to you and makes you want to quote it (this will prevent you from using a verse out of context)

Things to take note of as you study:

- Repetition of words
- Lists
- Descriptions of God
- The use of numbers (like 7, 40, etc...)

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Genres

Genre's offer insight into the passage that you are reading. It helps clarify whether you are reading a poem with figurative speech or a historical account that actually happened.

Law: defines the proper relationship with God to each other and the world, as well as worshipping God, governing the people, priestly duties, what to eat and not eat, how to build the temple, proper behavior, manners, and social interaction, etc.

- Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

History/Narrative: tells a historical account or story of God's work in and through ordinary people.

- Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Acts

Poetry: based on "rhythm" of stanzas and retelling phrases to convey the same ideas and/or meaning. Commonly uses figurative language.

- Psalms, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and bits of Luke

Prophecy: Prophetic literature is the revelation of God's perspective on humanity's past, present, and future. Read Old Testament prophetic books as God's challenge to the original audiences, and then apply the lessons to our day.

- four major prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel), the 12 minor prophets (Hosea through Malachi), and Revelation

Wisdom: collections of wise sayings meant to shape the moral and ethical lives of the readers.

- Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes

Gospels: proclamations about the life and teachings of Jesus. The "Good News".

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Epistles: personal letters by apostles to certain individuals or churches. Considered "occasioned" texts, so we need to understand the circumstances that led to them being written.

- by Paul: Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1,2,&3 John, Jude

Apocalypse: Warns us of future events (full meaning hasn't been completely revealed).

- Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Revelation.