

BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does this verse say? Read over it thoughtfully and carefully 3 or more times.
2. What are some key words/phrases? Circle them.
3. What are other verses that may help expand the key meaning(s) of this verse?
4. What do these words mean? What does the whole verse mean?
5. Paraphrase it. Write it in your own words.
6. Diagram it - break it down.
7. What does this tell me to do? or What should I do because of this truth
8. Why must I do it? (God commands)
9. How does this apply to life today? How does this apply to me today?
10. What does this verse tell me to do?
11. What can I learn about _____ from this verse? (God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ, me, others, life, God's will...)
12. What does this verse say about Christian _____? (values, convictions, living, character, goals, motives...)
13. How does this verse apply to the different areas of my life? Marriage, dating, sex, Spiritual (Bible, prayer, church, witnessing), Social (friends), Physical (diet, sleep, exercise), Vocational (work), Educational (schooling), Personal (habits, standards, thoughts, interests, skills, abilities, attitudes), Financial (income, budget, tithe, giving), Emotional (love, fear, anger, hate), Recreational (TV, hobbies, music, sports), Family (spouse, children, parents, in-laws), Use of my time; past, present, future...
14. Is there something/someone I should avoid? Are there any warnings that I need to heed?
15. Is there an example I should or should not follow?
16. Internalize the verse by:
 - . picturing or visualizing it with mental pictures
 - . reinforcing it by putting it to music (emotionally)
 - . defining every word in the passage or verses
 - . expanding and amplifying the meanings
 - . illustrating it
 - . sharing it with others
 - . associating it with other things you've learned
 - . connecting it within the flow of the context
 - . review it continually
17. What terms are here that I don't understand?
18. What lessons can be learned? examples?
19. What commands are there? Am I doing it?
20. How are the ideas related? How do these verses connect?
21. How does this challenge my life at home, school, work, family, marriage?
22. What promises can I claim? Any conditions I must fulfill?
23. What other Bible stories or people relate to this idea?
24. Are there any recent facts, stories...that illustrate this truth?
25. Draw a picture of the verse.
26. Write out as many different "observations" as you can about the verse.
27. Write a story about the verse. Act out the verse.

HELPFUL SUGGESTION:

Keep a Devotional and Bible study journal, recording insights God gives you about Himself or you and your relationship to Him and others, or other subject topics that you may like to study in depth. Record what the verses may expose about values, goals, motives, responses, behavior such as attitudes, actions, speech (negative or positive).

THE WAY OF BIBLE STUDY

1. READ - through at least 3-4 times.
2. OBSERVE - what is this chapter/verse revealing?
3. INTERPRET - what does it mean? (vs. by vs., word by word)
4. APPLY
 - (a) What does this tell me to do?
 - (b) Why must I do it? (God commands)

STEPS IN BUILDING AND PREPARING A LESSON

1. Analyze the audience - age, needs, common characteristics, backgrounds...
2. Choose the topic - interesting, relatable...
3. Determine the purpose - goal, lesson aim
4. Collect the material - reading, taking notes, research inductively and extensively
5. Outline
 - a. State central idea - the main focus of the teaching
 - b. Organize material - "weed out" what doesn't pertain to central idea
 - c. Choose main points - that expand the central idea
 - d. Support main points with explanations, illustrations and applications (1)
 - e. Plan conclusion - what's the bottom line, summary?
 - f. Plan introduction - how are you going to get interest and attention?
 - g. Test transitions - does it flow from point to point?
6. It may be helpful at this point to write out in "conversation form" the manuscript - the ways you want to say it.
7. Practice the delivery - teach it to someone or the mirror - the way you want to teach it.

THREE PRACTICAL WORDS FOR BIBLE STUDY

OBSERVATION - What does the verse say? - asking questions

INTERPRETATION - What does the verse mean? - defining words

APPLICATION - How does this apply to me? - relating it to life.

BACKGROUND DATA of the Biblical Context

1. Speaker, Writer - background, character, relation to people
2. People - who are they? spiritual condition?
3. Time - when did this happen? written? events? history? - what Biblical history relates to it?
4. Place - where did this take place? significant characteristics
5. Occasion - what prompted this message? Why did he write it?
- what's the writer dealing with? sin? spiritual growth? doctrine?
6. Aim - what is the writer working for to happen? What's he trying to get across?
- what should/shouldn't the people do? Practical? Doctrinal?

TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

*Commentaries	Topical Bible
*Concordance	Individual Book Commentaries
*Bible Dictionary	Vines New Testament Word Study
Bible Translations	Wilson's Old Testament Word Study
Bible History books	Old Testament and New Testament Survey books and other books pertaining to topics

*-Virtually essential for effective Bible Study

STUDY

- the text phrase for phrase - observe patterns, themes, grammatical structure
- the text word for word - observe meanings, definitions (original language)
- the text in the context - observe frequency of connections
- the text in relation to historical background