Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Ten

Studying the Bible

Session Goals

1. Each disciple will be able to repeat two reasons to study the Bible.
2. Each disciple will name three resources useful for studying the Bible.
3. Each disciple will commit to study a small passage of scripture this week.

Begin the session praying together, then reviewing and discussing last week's Action Steps.

- What does the Bible say about why we should study the Bible?

*Romans 10:17 "**Faith** comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."*

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

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture **is inspired by God** and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**"*

*2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show yourself approved unto God as a **workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**"*

*Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to the dividing of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. **It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**"*

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*Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past, was written to teach us so that **through the endurance taught** in the Scriptures and **the encouragement** they provide, **we might have hope.**"*

*Proverbs 3:1-2 "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, **they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.**"*

*John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the **truth shall make you free.**"*

*2 Timothy 3:15 "And then from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

*1 Corinthians 13 All of the chapter, like much of the Bible, **teaches us what love is and that God is love.***

*Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young person **stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.** I seek you with all my heart. Do not let me stray from your commands. **I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.**"*

*Psalm 119:1-2 "Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. **Blessed** are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart."*

*John 15:7 "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**"*

*Proverbs 7:2-3 "Keep my commands and **you will live.** Guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your heart."*

*Matthew 7:24-27 "**Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to be a wise man who built his house on the rock:** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it*

did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand, and the rain descended, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

- **How can we study the Bible?**

Go deeper in Your reading.

Prayerfully read a small portion of the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit for revelation. Write down any things you have not thought of before. Ask God how to apply those to your life.

Look for scripture related to what God draws your attention to.

When God draws your attention to something, look it up in the Bible, find out what else he says about that. You can do that by asking Google or looking it up in a concordance. For instance, if you see a blue bird, Job 12:7 says the birds of the heavens will teach us. What did that bird demonstrate to you? Was it eating a worm? Is God telling you He will provide all your necessities? (Just an example)

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech. Night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard."

By studying a specific passage

1. Observation, what is the passage saying?
2. Interpretation, discover the meaning of the passage, and the author's main ideas and thoughts. Use some of the tools listed.
3. Application- Ask yourself how does this apply to my life?

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourself. Do what it says."

By studying a specific topic

Look up verses and compare them. For example, if you read about the resurrection and want to know more. You can find other verses by looking up resurrection in a concordance or using Google to locate the other verses. Compare the verses with one another. Write down what you learn about the subject. How does it apply to your life?

By using tools available

There are many different types of Bible study tools available. Most tend to fall into one or two categories, the Bible, lots of different translations, and many types, some identify themselves as study Bibles. Then there are other resources. These tools can help you learn about historical context, find the differences in translations, find the true meaning of a verse and help you apply lessons to your life. Most are available on Amazon, many on Kindle, Christian Bookstores will also carry them, and some are available as online apps.

1. Bible Dictionaries
   Bible dictionaries are a lot like English dictionaries, but they focus on biblical words. They don't give you modern definitions, but they describe what a given word meant when it was used in the Bible. Example: **Vine's Concise Dictionary, The Tyndale Bible Dictionary. Lexham Bible Dictionary (**Free but not complete on Logos App) **Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary** is also highly recommended.

2. Bible Encyclopedias
   Bible encyclopedias contain articles and definitions to thousands of words and terms used in the Bible. It'll give you dates, religious environment, family life, customs, language, lots of details. And they're cross referenced and linked to verses to help you increase your understanding of the verse. **Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible** was recommended as a good balanced reference book

3. Bible Handbooks
   Bible handbooks are practical Bible study resources that help you glean knowledge about topics, people, and places in the Bible. **Halley's Bible Handbook** is available in print and free online. **Tyndale Concise Bible Handbook** is available in print.

4. Commentaries
   For the whole Bible **Matthew Henry's Commentary** on the whole Bible is a good commentary at a devotional level. The **MorningStar Vision Bible** has commentary alongside the Bible text. It is not yet the complete Bible.

5. Concordances
   An alphabetical list of words used in the Bible listing every instance of the word and its context. Sometimes found at the end of Bibles. To buy separately **Strong's Concise Concordance** also available online or **Young's Analytical Concordance**

6. Harmony
   A study resource chart for Matthew, Mark Luke, and John listing where events may be found in each gospel with side-by-side viewing. (Online: blueletterbible.org)

7. Devotionals
   Usually, theme based or speak to specifically men or women. Often Inspiring but not a replacement for Bible study. They may help you focus on specific topics.

8. Bible Atlases
   Maps will help readers understand the context of a passage of scripture. **The Basic Bible Atlas** or the **Ultimate Bible Atlas** are available.

9. **The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times** will give you greater understanding as you study the Bible.

10. Bible software and apps

- Logos 9 Basic

Free Logos Bible Study App, Faithlife product contains the English Standard Version

- CrossWalk
- Bible Gateway
- Various Bible Translations
- The Study Bible with study helps.
- YouVersion Bible App
- Bible Commentary Verse by Verse - Matthew Henry's commentary

There are many more of these free apps, but they do contain advertising.

- Most importantly, how do we apply what we study to our lives?

James 1:22-25 "But prove yourself doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he's like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and has gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, ***not having become a forgetful hearer, but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.****"*

Ephesians 5:8 "For you were formerly darkness. But now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of the light.'

First Steps to apply the Word of God

- As you study the Bible, believe that it was written for you too, not just for the Jews or the early Christians, approach Bible study with that frame of mind.
- Pray as you study the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through it?
- Respond to God with a willingness to obey what He has shown you.

If you are not sure how it applies to your life, make the verses personal by asking yourself and the Holy Spirit all or some of the following questions

- How does this verse or passage apply in my life?
- How does it apply to my relationship with God?
- How does it apply to my relationships with other people?
- How does it make me feel about myself?
- What promise is God giving?
- What direction is He giving?

Action Steps

- Each disciple is to journal their Bible study and share what they learned in the next session. They should include how they came to that conclusion. i.e., from another person or from revelation. Both are acceptable.

- Ask disciples to share what questions they asked themselves to apply to their lives and how did the passage apply to them.