

**Growth Track One**  
**Semester One: My New Life in Christ**  
**Session Five: Studying the Bible**

**Objective:**

Learn why and how to study the Bible for personal application and leading and/or teaching others.

*John 8:31b-32 NIV If you hold on to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

*Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

**1. Reasons We Study the Bible:**

- a. That we might come to know Jesus Christ and receive His Salvation.**
- b. To help us grow spiritually and be equipped for God's purpose**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- **Teaching**
- **Rebuking**
- **Correcting**
- **Training**

**2. Principles of Dynamic Bible Study**

- a. Ask the right kind of questions.
- b. Write down what you have observed and learned.

**3. The goal of dynamic Bible Study is application.**

1. Apply truths to our daily living
2. Become more like Jesus
3. Know God

**b. The Bible must be studied systematically.**

**c. Dynamic Bible Study will never exhaust the riches of a passage of Scripture.**

**4. Preparation for a Dynamic Bible Study:**

- a. Schedule your Bible Study time.
- b. Pray before you study.
- c. Keep a notebook.

**5. Tools**

- a. Study Bible
  1. Easy to read print, with pages thick enough to prevent bleeding when written on, wide margins, and a good system of cross reference
  2. Suggestions: The Thompson Chain Reference Bible and the Open Bible; also, The Life Application Study Bible, NIV Study Bible, The Scofield Study Bible, The Quest Study Bible, The Life Recovery Bible

b. Additional translations

1. Textual Translations – KJV, RSV, NASB (word for word)
2. Dynamic Translations – NIV, NLT, NCV, ICB (thought for thought)
3. Paraphrase – AMP, TLB, PH, MESS, Good News (inclusion of interpretation)

c. A Bible dictionary or encyclopedia

1. Explains the meaning of the words, topics, customs, and traditions
2. Gives historical, geographical, cultural, and archeological information
3. Several excellent examples - Wycliffe Bible Dictionary, Smith's Bible Dictionary, Bridgeway Bible Dictionary, The New Bible Dictionary, The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible

**The following tools may also be useful as you continue to study and grow in your understanding of the Bible. Add them to your study library as needed.**

d. Exhaustive Concordance

1. One of the most important tools needed for a Bible Study
2. A Bible index of the words contained in the KJV Bible
3. Several excellent examples – Strong's, Young's, Cruden's

e. Topical Bible

1. Similar to a concordance but categorizes the verses in the Bible by topic.
2. This is helpful because often a verse deals with a topic without ever using the specific word. Example: the topic of the Trinity is listed 83 times in the Naves Topical Bible even though the word Trinity is not in the Bible.

f. Bible Handbook

1. Combines both a commentary and an encyclopedia in one book.

g. Word Studies

1. The works of great Christian scholars are available and written for the average Christian. Enable study of the original words of Hebrew and Greek without knowing Hebrew or Greek.

h. Bible Commentaries

1. A scholarly collection of explanatory notes and interpretations of the Bible
2. They are fallible because men write them.
3. Refer to a commentary only after completing your own study of the Scripture.
4. These range in price for 1-volume commentaries to 12 or more volume sets.

i. Bible Software

1. Combines many of the tools listed here
2. Many programs are available – Logos, Quickverse, Bible Discovery, Ultimate Bible Reference Recourse
3. They can sync several books at one time, such as Bible translations and/or commentaries.

## **6. The Devotional Method of Bible Study** (adapted from Rick Warren's *Personal Bible Study Methods*)

This method of study is intended to equip you to read a Bible passage daily, understand how to make a personal application of it to your own life and develop a healthy habit of memorizing scripture.

Tools: Bible, pen & paper

Optional tools: additional translations and a Bible dictionary

### **STEPS**

#### **a. Pray**

Ask God to help you understand His Word.

"Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart." Psalm 119:34 (NLT)

#### **b. Read**

Read the passage several times. Take your time.

#### **c. Write**

- Write down questions you have.
- Note any truths you discover.
- Record meaningful thoughts and ideas.
- Try to write a one sentence summary of the passage.

#### **d. Apply**

How will your life be different?

What will you change?

Who needs to hear what you've learned?

#### **e. Memorize**

Choose a verse from the passage that is most meaningful to you and commit it to memory.

Let's practice together!

Psalm 119:1-8

**Recommended Resources for going deeper:**

*Personal Bible Study Methods*, Rick Warren. Published by Zondervan, 2006.

RightNow Media ([rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org)) Online Bible study resources

Suggested Studies:

- Basics Of Studying The Bible, Mark Beuving  
(<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/365809>)
- Rooted in the Word, A Tool for Studying the Bible  
(<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/249560>)
- Secret Church: How to Study the Bible, David Platt  
(<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/179045>)