



“Jitahidi kujionyesha kuwa umekubaliwa na Mungu, mtenda kazi asiye na sababu ya kutahayari, ukitumia kwa halali neno la kweli.” 2 Timotheo 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

Lesson 3 - Bible Study

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4 [reference: Deuteronomy 8:3]

THE PREEMINENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES. No other book is like the Bible. No other book has had more copies published. No other book has been translated into so many languages. No other book has been so widely distributed. No other book has so positively changed so many lives. The Bible is the most important book ever written because it is God’s message to us. It is more than inspiring. It is inspired. It is God-breathed. The authors of the Bible were carried along by the Holy Spirit as they wrote. Therefore the Bible is true ... it is accurate ... it is pure ... it is eternal ... and it is powerful. The Bible is more than man’s message about God ... it is God’s message to man. It is a book from God ... not simply about God. It is the superior and preeminent Book. It is the supreme and final authority in what we should believe and in how we should live. The Bible is not just a book. It is *The Book*. It is *The Book* to study.

THE PRIORITY OF STUDY. The verse quoted at the top of this page records the great commitment that Jesus had to God’s Word. Those were His words during His temptations in the wilderness. God’s Word was more important to Jesus than physical food ... even after 40 days without eating. The Bible is provided for our spiritual nourishment. The availability of His Word gives us the great privilege and serious life-long challenge of Bible study. If we really want to learn and to grow ... then we must invest both time and energy in the process of Bible study. There are no shortcuts. We must commit sufficient regular time to studying God’s Word.

THE PROGRESS OF STUDY. Peter used a newborn baby’s focused attention on its need for milk to illustrate what our desire for God’s Word should be, *“Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,”* 1 Peter 2:2. Then, as we grow, we need to move on to solid food from deeper study, Hebrews 5:11-14. It is important to set realistic goals for regular study ... starting with the easier sections and books of the Bible ... increasing the quantity and complexity of study as we grow. Throughout this life-long process of study, our continual prayer should be like that of the Psalmist, *“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law,”* Psalm 119:18.

THE BOOK TO STUDY. The Bible is the most important book. It is God's message to us, and that makes it different from all other books. It is the most important book to study because...

The Bible is inspired ... God-breathed.

"All Scripture is inspired by God." 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible is true.

"Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17

The Bible is accurate.

"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."
Matthew 5:18

The Bible is pure.

"The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times." Psalm 12:6

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."
Psalm 19:7-8

The Bible is eternal.

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."
Isaiah 40:8

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away."
Matthew 24:35

The Bible is powerful.

"The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

THE COMMAND TO STUDY.

The Bible is very clear that the man or woman of God is committed to His Word ... to learning it and applying it. There is no option for us ... it is a command.

To be a disciple ... *abide in*, that is *live in* ... not just visit, the Word.

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.’” John 8:31

To be approved ... study the Word.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

To be a good parent ... teach the Word to your children.

“You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul ... and you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 11:18-19

THE BENEFITS OF STUDY.

The Word is powerful and eternal. God blesses us as we study it. The accumulative benefits are overwhelming.

The Bible equips us.

“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 adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible helps us not sin.

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word ... Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee,” Psalm 119:9-11

The Bible gives us guidance for today and for our future.

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

THE BENEFITS OF STUDY ... continued

The Bible gives us wisdom.

“Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Thy precepts ... The unfolding of Thy words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:98-100, 130

The Bible helps us through difficulty.

“This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word has revived me ... It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes.” Psalm 119:50, 71

The Bible provides hope.

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

The Bible gives peace.

“Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.” Psalm 119:165

The Bible gives joy.

“Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name.” Jeremiah 15:16

The Bible offers conditional blessings.

“Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.” Psalm 112:1

“The one who despises the word will be in debt to it, but the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded.” Proverbs 13:13

“But He said, ‘On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.’” Luke 11:28

THE PROCESS OF STUDY

Pick a regular time and place to study. Develop the habit of study. Pick a primary time for daily Bible study to make it more likely that you will study every day.

Put what you read in context. A phrase or verse seldom contains enough information from which to draw a conclusion. It is necessary to understand what is in the surrounding verses ... and how it is woven into the bigger picture of what God is saying. The answers to the following questions will give more understanding to any verse.

What does the whole sentence say?

What does the paragraph or section teach?

What is the chapter about?

How is that woven into the whole Bible?

Cross references, study Bibles, and commentaries can provide help in understanding the overall context.

Pray for wisdom to understand and apply what you study. Look for the answers to the following questions.

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How do I make this part of my life?

Pick it apart by looking for ...

Main thoughts.

Grammar.

Cause and effect.

Comparisons and contrasts.

Connectors.

Repetition.

Promises and conditions.

Commands - the *do's* and *do not's*.

Illustrations and parables.

People, places, and time.

Put it in usable form. Write notes and thoughts in your Bible and/or a notebook. Memorize especially meaningful verses ... writing them in your mind and heart.

Put it into practice. The goal of Bible study is a full life ... not a full book of notes. Always approach the study of God's Word with a heart open to His working in and through your life.

WHAT STUDY TOOLS DO I NEED?

The most important book for studying the Bible is a good Bible. Begin with the best literal translation available in your language. Plan on writing in it. But think before you write or underline anything on the pages of your Bible. Be sure that your notes will be meaningful and easy to read. Remember that commentaries on the Bible, modern easier to read translations, study Bible notes, books, messages, and online teaching can help you understand God's Word ... but only the Bible is God's infallible Word. Invest most if not all, of your study time directly in your Bible.

Which Bible should you use? Use the best word-for-word translation available in your language. The Union Bible [not the revised Union Bible] is used in this course because it is a reasonably good translation that is readily available. There are other Kiswahili translations of the Bible that are easier to read than the Union Bible. However, many of them are not as close to the original languages of the Bible as the Union Bible. They often tell you what the Bible means more than what the Bible says. However, almost any Bible is better than no Bible. *But ...* use no Bibles or books from organizations that add to, take away from, or change the teachings of the Bible. These include the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses. Stay away from them.

What books would help? If possible, build a personal, church, or pastoral group reference library from the following types. Some of these are available for free online. And more are available in English than in other languages.

A study Bible containing notes, outlines, cross-references, maps, and a shortened concordance.

A concordance for use as a word and verse finder ... available in shortened [abridged] or complete [exhaustive] versions. If possible, a concordance that matches your Bible version is the easiest to use.

A Bible dictionary for facts and details about the people, places, things, and times referenced in the Bible.

A commentary giving verse-by-verse, section-by-section, and book by book explanations of the Bible.

What online Bible study tools are available? Many online Bibles and Apps [in a variety of translations and languages] and Bible reference books are available for free or at a somewhat reasonable cost. An easy way to find some of these resources is by a simple online search. For instance, you might search for *John 3:16* or *Psalms 119:133* to find a website that has what you need.

What if you cannot afford or access the resources? A good Bible is the best book you can own. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will lead you into truth, John 16:13. And He will do that with or without these other resources if you are diligent in studying and learning the Bible.

Acts One Eight [Matendo Moja Nane] publishes this Kiswahili translation of the English-language *Disciplemaking 1 ... Abiding in His Word*. You may copy this course or any part of it for free or at-cost distribution, without change to the content and with this source statement attached. This course is available for free in Kiswahili from www.Theolojia.org or in English from www.VirtualBibleAcademy.org. On these sites, you can study online, be taught, download, or print your own copies. Kiswahili Bible quotations are from Biblia [The Union Version 1997].



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DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET ... from www.Theolojia.org.

“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 adequate, prepared for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Name:

Date:

Today's study of _____ has been profitable ...

In *teaching* me these truths, facts, and promises to believe:

For *reproof* in convicting me of these sins of attitude, action, and inaction:

For *correction* in helping me get back on course by:

For *training* me to obey these commands, apply these principles, and follow these examples:

In giving me this main verse or thought for today:

Copy or print this sheet for your daily study ... one for each day. Study daily. Pray and think as you study. Review yesterday's notes as you begin today's study. Read today's chapter or section of the Bible once, then read it again, filling in the appropriate categories above. Recruit a study and accountability partner to encourage one another. Begin studying with shorter books such as Colossians, 1 John, and 2 Timothy. Then go on to books such as Mark, John, Ephesians, and Philipians. Progress to longer ones such as Romans and Hebrews. Study the Old and New Testaments, seeking the full counsel of God's Word.

Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 3 - Bible Study ... pages 31 - 37

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on www.Theolojia.org.

1. What physical characteristics of the Bible make it preeminent?
2. What spiritual characteristics make the Bible preeminent?
3. As in human growth, good progress in Bible study has a diet that progresses on from _____ to _____.
4. In reference to the Bible, explain the difference between *inspiring* and *inspired*.
5. Explain what it means that the Bible is true, accurate, and pure.
6. What does the Bible being eternal mean for you?
7. What does the Bible being powerful mean for you?

8. Put John 8:31 in your own words.

9. Put 2 Timothy 2:15 in your own words.

10. When and how often should a parent talk to his or her children about the Bible?

11. What are some of the benefits of Bible study?

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | e. |
| b. | f. |
| c. | g. |
| d. | h. |

12. How important is context in Bible study?

13. As you study the Bible, pray and answer what 3 questions?

- a.
- b.
- c.

14. Put 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in your own words.

15. For the next six days, use a copy of page 37 in your study of any part of the Bible ... studying at least 15 minutes a day. Do this in your regular study or begin a new study. Circle each day after successfully completing this.

Day 1 ... Day 2 ... Day 3 ... Day 4 ... Day 5 ... Day 6

16. What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson on Bible study?

17. What changes have you made, or will you be making, in your daily Bible study?

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 3 - Bible Study ... questions pages 38 - 39

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on www.Theolojia.org.

1. What physical characteristics of the Bible make it preeminent?

More copies have been made ... it has been translated into more languages ... and it has been more widely distributed than any other book in all of history.

2. What spiritual characteristics make the Bible preeminent? *It has changed more lives than any other book ... is God's message to us ... is God-breathed (inspired and not just inspiring) ... and is the authority in what to believe and how to live.*

3. As in human growth, good progress in Bible study has a diet that progresses on from not just milk to meat (solid food).

4. In reference to the Bible, explain the difference between *inspiring* and *inspired*.
Inspired describes the source ... it is God-breathed.
Inspiring is what it does to us ... encourages and gives us life.

5. Explain what it means that the Bible is true, accurate, and pure.
True means factually correct. Accurate means free from error.
Pure means spotless and clean ... not needing to be filtered.

6. What does the Bible being eternal mean for you?
Not bound or effected by time. It is as relevant today to me as it was to the original readers.

7. What does the Bible being powerful mean for you?
It produces strong change in me.

8. Put John 8:31 in your own words.
Believers need to abide in, live in, the Word to be disciples of Jesus.

9. Put 2 Timothy 2:15 in your own words.
Study hard to be approved by God and unashamed, using the Word accurately.

8. Put John 8:31 in your own words.

Believers need to abide in, live in, the Word to be disciples of Jesus.

9. Put 2 Timothy 2:15 in your own words.

Study hard to be approved by God and unashamed, using the Word accurately.

10. When and how often should a parent talk to his or her children about the Bible?

Morning, noon, and night ... having a continuing dialog about the Word.

11. What are some of the benefits of Bible study?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| a. <i>Equips me.</i> | e. <i>Helps me through difficulties.</i> |
| b. <i>Is a sin-preventative.</i> | f. <i>Gives hope to me.</i> |
| c. <i>Guides me.</i> | g. <i>Gives peace to me.</i> |
| d. <i>Gives me wisdom.</i> | h. <i>Gives joy to me.</i> |

12. How important is context in Bible study?

Context is extremely important to understand any piece or part of the Bible.

13. As you study the Bible, pray and answer what 3 questions?

- a. *What does it say?*
- b. *What does it mean?*
- c. *How do I make this part of my life?*

14. Put 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in your own words.

Your answer should include: teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness ... so that you are adequate and prepared for good works.

15. For the next six days, use a copy of page 37 in your study of any part of the Bible ... studying at least 15 minutes a day. Do this in your regular study or begin a new study. Circle each day after successfully completing this.

Day 1 ... Day 2 ... Day 3 ... Day 4 ... Day 5 ... Day 6

16. What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson on Bible study?

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