

Bible Study Methods

Bible Study Methods

Goal for Course

- For beginner to learn the basics of Bible study
- For everyone to become more efficient in Bible study
- For the mature Christian to better understand their current approach to Bible study

5 Basic Study Methods

1. Book Overview
2. Chapter Overview
3. Verse by Verse
4. Topical/Word Study
5. Biographical Study

Studying the Word of God – WHY?

1. Word of God is infallible
 - Proverbs 30:5 *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him”*
2. Word God is complete
 - Revelation 22:18-19 *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”*
3. Word of God is authoritative
 - Psalms 119:89 *“Lamed, For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven”*
4. Word of God is sufficient for all our needs
 - 2Ti 3:16-17 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”*
5. Word of God will accomplish what it promises
 - Isaiah 55:11 *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I Please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”*

Things to Keep in Mind

- Always start with prayer
- 1 size does not fit all - Developing your own study process
- Jumping from a plane analogy
- Study Tools – Vary, and to be used with caution
- How should a beginner approach study? – (Keep it simple)
- God’s Word: Like water shallow enough kids can play but deep enough scholars can dive

What All Methods Have in Common to a Certain Degree – OIA

1. Observation - What it being said or demonstrated?
2. Interpretation - What does it mean generally?
3. Application – What or how does this affect us?

Bible Study Method #1: Book Overview

Book Overview (Big Picture)

- General Summary of the Method
 - A book study is the overview of a book and is important because the chapters, paragraphs, verses, and words of a book must be interpreted in proper context. A book study provides knowledge of this context.
 - Many false doctrines use just enough truth to spread their message.
 - However, when applying context of scripture, the false claims begin to unravel.
 - Context is KEY when studying scripture.
- Purpose
 - To obtain a detailed overview of a particular book of the Bible
- Things to Keep in Mind
 - It is an overview
 - Requires you to cover ground quickly – (Not always a bad thing)
- How it is Done
 - Read through as if chapters and verse divisions are non-existent
 - Gives flow of book and the relationship of its ideas to one another
 - Read it while jotting down notes as you go along
 - Jotting down notes that stick out give you something to investigate further with the other Bible study methods
- Study Check List
 - Book Selected?
 - Theme?
 - Author?
 - Who is it addressed to?
 - Purpose it was written?
 - Key Words?
 - Key verse or Verses?
 - Main people?
 - Major Events?
 - Geographically located?
 - Historically when?
 - Lessons to apply?
 - Additional Notes

Tools/Study Aids

Most study Bibles have a Book Overview section

E-Sword – Study Bible App

Thomson Chain Study Bible

Commentaries – Wiersbe's Expository Outlines – (Personal Choice)

Personal Comment

- I noticed advantage of this when I began helping teach our adult Sunday school class

Book Overview Example: Philippians

- Book Selected?
 - Philippians
- Theme?
 - Appeal for Christian Unity
- Author?
 - Apostle Paul
- Who is it addressed to?
 - Christians in the city of Philippi
- Purpose it was written?
 - The general purpose of the book was twofold: It was to thank the Philippians for their support of his ministry and appeal for Christian unity.
- Key Words?
 - Rejoice, joy, strength.
- Key verse or Verses?
 - Philippians 2:2
 - Philippians 3:14
- Main people? Euodias, Syntyce, Timotheus, Epaphroditus, Clement, Caesar's household.
- Major Events? Can find this in header of chapter in most Bibles. Will be listed below in another outline.
- Geographically located? Greece (First Christian community established in Europe)
- Historically when? Approximately 49 and 51 AD.
- Lessons to Apply? The basic life and ministry in unity brings joy.
- Additional Notes? ***Chapter 3 Paul gives detail of life he gave up due to his dedication to follow after Christ. Something need to dig into further!***

Detailed Book Overview – (Introduction into next week's lesson – Chapter Overview)

NOTE: Okay to not be this detailed! – (This is from a commentary)

- The Single Mind (Php 1:1-30)
 - A. The fellowship of the Gospel (Php 1:1-11)
 - B. The furtherance of the Gospel (Php 1:12-26)
 - C. The faith of the Gospel (Php 1:27-30)
- The Submissive Mind (Php 2:1-30)
 - A. Example of Christ (Php 2:1-11)
 - B. Example of Paul (Php 2:12-18)
 - C. Example of Timothy (Php 2:19-24)
 - D. Example of Epaphroditus (Php 2:25-30)
- The Spiritual Mind (Php 3:1-21)
 - A. The Christian's past: Php 3:1-11)
 - B. The Christian's present: (Php 3:12-16)
 - C. The Christian's future: (Php 3:17-21)

- The Secure Mind (Php 4:1-23)
 - A. God's presence: "at hand" (Php 4:1-5)
 - B. God's peace (Php 4:6-9)
 - C. God's power (Php 4:10-13)
 - D. God's provision (Php 4:14-23)

Closing Summary

- Overview of the book with notes jotted down – (Better understanding of context)
- Now have a direction to go down for chapter overview
 - Air plane analogy (Just jumped out of plane)
- This method may vary based on number of reasons
 - Size, time, etc
 - Larger books – (may do handful of chapters at a time)

Bible Study Method #2: Chapter Overview

Brief Recap – Book Overview

- A book study is the overview of a book and is important because the chapters, paragraphs, verses, and words of a book must be interpreted in proper context. A book study provides knowledge of this context.
- Chapter overview is very similar to book overview
- Plane Analogy – (If book overview is jumping from plane, chapter overview would be closer view of landmarks)

Chapter Overview (Big Picture)

- General Summary of Method
 - A chapter study is the overview of a chapter and is important because the paragraphs, verses, and words of a chapter must be interpreted in proper context. A chapter study provides knowledge of this context.
- Purpose
 - To obtain a detailed overview of a particular chapter in a book in the Bible
- Things to Keep in Mind
 - It is an overview
 - Requires you to cover ground quickly – (Not always a bad thing)
- How it is Done
 - Read through the chapter as if verse divisions are non-existent
 - Gives flow of the chapter and the relationship of its ideas
 - Read it while jotting down notes as you go along
- Chapter Study Guide
 - Caption of Chapter:
 - Give the chapter a short but descriptive heading.
 - Content Highlights:
 - Make a list or outline of the major point of the chapter.
 - Main People:
 - Make a list of the major individuals in the chapter
 - Choice Verse:
 - Select a verse that is significant in the chapter or which you find is important during this study.
 - Crucial Words:
 - Make a list of the key words of the chapter.
 - Challenges for growth:
 - List any difficulties you may have with the chapter. What don't you understand? Are there areas of your life that need changing but cannot be changed?
 - Christ Seen:
 - As the Bible as a whole is the revelation of Jesus Christ (the Old Testament points to Him, the Gospels give the details of His earthly life, and Acts and the Letters show His activity in the world) it should be possible to find His presence in all areas of the Bible. Find out what you can discover of the nature, ministry, or person of Christ from this chapter.

- Central Lessons:
 - List the major lessons taught in the chapter that you have learned at this time (next time you study this chapter entirely new insights may become evident).
- Conclusion (Personal application):
 - Here you will begin to apply what you have learned. Two questions that are important to ask during any application of the Bible are:
 - How do these insights apply to me personally?
 - What am I going to do about them?

Chapter Study Aid

- Observation Questions
 - Ask the six vital observation questions:
 1. What?
 2. Who?
 3. Where?
 4. When?
 5. Why?
 6. How?
- What to look for - (Suggestions)
 - Look for repeated words and phrases.
 - Look for questions being asked.
 - Look for answers being given.
 - Look for commands.
 - Look for warnings.
 - Look for comparisons - things that are alike.
 - Look for contrasts - things that are different.
 - Look for illustrations.
 - Look for causes and effects and reasons for doing things.
 - Look for promises and their conditions for fulfillment.
 - Look for lists of things.
 - Look for results.
 - Look for advice, admonitions, and attitudes.
 - Look for explanations.
 - Look for Old Testament quotes in the New Testament.
 - Look for the use of the current events of the times.

Chapter Overview Example – Philippians 4:1-23 (Overview)

- This was from last week's book over view method.
 - Now we can dig deeper into chapter 4

The Secure Mind (Php 4:1-23)

- Things we now know because we better understand the book in context
 - Single mind – ch 1
 - Submissive mind – ch 2
 - Spiritual mind - ch 3
 - Must have these things before you can have a secure mind – ch 4

God's presence: "at hand" (Php 4:1-5)

- At hand?
- Book of life
- Rejoice!
- Let others know

God's peace (Php 4:6-9)

- Everything by prayer
- Make request known unto God
- Which passeth all understanding
- If we meet Gods conditions he will give us peace of mind

God's power (Php 4:10-13)

- This explains why Paul could rejoice even in prison: he had learned the secret of the secure mind through the power of God – Wiersbe's Commentary
- God who strengthens

God's provision (Php 4:14-23)

- Trust God will provide!

Bible Study Method #3: Verse by Verse

Brief Recap – Book & Chapter Overviews

- Both book and chapter overviews are important because they give an overall context of what you are studying.
- Plane Analogy
 - Book Overview – Jumping from plane
 - Chapter Overview – Closer view of landmarks
 - Verse by Verse – Exploring the land at ground level

Verse by Verse (Expository)

- General Summary of Method
 - Verse-by-verse study is the analysis confined to a select few verses in a passage
- Purpose
 - Allows for detailed understanding of the text by drawing out exact meaning. Pairing with book and chapter overview highly recommended.
- Things to Keep in Mind
 - The strength of expository study is scripture itself.
 - Preacher/Teacher Advice: You are merely delivering what the Bible says, not trying to make the Bible say what you had in mind before preparing the message.
 - We are completely dissecting a passage of verses
 - Grammar, context, historical settings, etc.
 - We want to know how it applies to us and what we must do because of it

Observation

- Interrogate the text
 - Who, What, Where, When, Why, How
- Just simply observe

Interpret

- Context
 - Verses that come before and after
- Interpret or Personal Paraphrase
 - Write out each verse of the passage in your own words.
- Questions, Answers, and Observations
 - List any Q, A, and Observations you have made on that verse.
 - Words, Topics, People, Ideas, etc.

Application

- This is what makes the difference in a Christians life
- List the lessons that are being taught and commanded.

Example: Philippians 4:6-13

- God's peace (Php 4:6-9)
 - Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God v6
 - Focused in our goings
 - God needs to be involved in every aspect of our lives.
 - Matthew 6:33
 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus v7
 - Peace felt of the believer
 - A joy felt through the hardest of times****
 - Keep in mind Paul is in prison when writing this
 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things v8
 - Virtue & Praise?
 - Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you v9
 - Gods word is to be applied to our life
 - Our life should be a witness to others.
 - If we live like Christ we will have peace.
 - What about for those that don't?
- God's power (Php 4:10-13)
 - But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity v10
 - Rejoice in the Lord greatly
 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content v11
 - Be Content no matter what***
 - I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need v12
 - What is abased?
 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me v13
 - Christ is the source of our strength
 - Reference verses 6, 7, & 9
 - Question?
 - Are all the people who constantly quote this applying verses 6, 7, & 9 in their lives?

Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- Prayer and supplication
 - Prayer to obtain good
 - Prayer to avoid evil
 - Covers prayer in its widest meaning – Pray without ceasing – include God in all things
- Thanksgiving
 - Necessary in prayer – give thanks unto the Lord!

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Peace of God
 - Can only be known by the believer of Christ
 - Transcends the reach of human thought
 - Peace and Joy during the most troubling of times
 - Paul was in prison when he wrote this!
 - Think of all the testimonies of saints praising God during there troubles

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- Paul tells us to think on these things
 - True – “Christ”
 - Honest – “Christian Self Respect”
 - Just – “Righteous”
 - Pure – “Free from Stain”
 - Lovely – “pleasing”
 - Good Report – “Well Speaking”
 - Any virtue – “Excellence”
 - Any Praise – “Admiration”

Php 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

- How can we have the peace of God in our life?
 - Things learned, received, and heard – DO!
 - Don’t just talk the walk but walk the talk
 - Follow Gods word and strive to live in His will

Php 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

- Paul thanks the Philippian Church for the gifts brought by Epaphroditus
 - Don’t forget he is in Prison

Php 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

- Paul is CONTENT!
 - Clarifies he doesn’t speak in want
 - He is in captivity and is content – (self sufficient)

Php 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

- Paul finds content in all situations
 - Sorrow – Joy
 - distress – comfort
 - Joy of Christ rises above all else

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

- Christ is the source of the believer's strength
 - Many quote this, but only the believer understands it and can enjoy it
 - His presence gives us strength to overcome trials and suffering
 - Keys to doing all things through Christ
 1. Prayer v6
 2. Living for Him v9

Paul gave up a life of gain to follow and serve Christ - Philippians 3:4-11

Php 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Php 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Php 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Php 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Php 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Php 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

2: Paul was straining toward a goal – Philippians 3:13-14

Php 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

3: There are many who will not follow after Christ Jesus – Philippians 3:18-19

Php 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Php 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Philippians 2:1-11 - Imitate Christ

Introduction

- Experts say those suddenly submerged in water do not drown because they don't know how to swim but because they do not know where to swim. When in deep water they go towards where they believe the surface to be only to have been going deeper.
 - Sinners do the exact same thing today. They are swimming for their lives toward power, prestige, wealth, comfort, when that just causes them to go deeper in sin.
- The text is directing us to be selfless and united with other Christians.

1) Exhortation to Selflessness – Phil 2:1-4

A. Christ Selfless Gifts v1

- *“if there be therefore any consolation in Christ”*
 - Paul is reminding his readers of what they have received as a result of Christ selflessness
- *“if any comfort of love”*
 - Gods expression of his love was to save us despite our rebellion and unworthiness
- *“if any fellowship of the Spirit”*
 - Fellowship signifies sense of connection.
 - Fellowship of the Spirit binds Gods people together in a way that transcends differences that may exist.
- *“if any bowels and mercies”*
 - Bowels = compassion
 - Mercies = giving blessing in place of negative response or punishment
 - The saved received a gift from God they did not deserve

B. Our Selfless Imitation v2-4

- *“Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like minded” v2*
 - Christian unity happens when we unite to pursue being Christ like.
- *“Having the same love” v2*
 - love must dictate our actions.
 - We are to give as we have received
- *“Being of one accord” v2*
 - Before and after testimony.
 - The lost think we are crazy then get Saved and think world is crazy.
- *“Of one mind” v2*
 - Notice emphasis on mind.
 - Romans 12:1-2 *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”*
 - Our understanding of Christ will transform our lives inside and out
 - Why we must live in the Word and Prayer to better know Him
- *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory” v3*
 - Strife = Conflict
 - Vainglory = selfish pursuit of empty praise
- *“But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” v3*
 - This is indeed what Christ did for us
 - We must put others first

- *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”*
 - Abandon self interest – look out for others.
 - Geese on their flight down south - Example

2) Revelation of Selflessness – Philippians 2:5-11

A. The Divine Christ v5-6

- *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”* v5
 - Again he stresses the mind – thinking Christ like must be pursued – (WWJD)
- *“Who, being in the form of God, though it not robbery to be equal with God”* v6
 - John 1:14 *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”*

B. The Lowly Christ v7-8

- *“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men”* v7
 - He stepped down from throne to come to earth
 - Made himself of no reputation
 - Form of servant
 - He emptied Himself willingly for you and me
 - Lived a life completely characterized by humble service towards others
- *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* v8
 - Climax of His service was in accepting death on the cross for the sake of others.
 - Crucifixion was set up to demonstrate power of Roman Empire
 - Christ had All Power, but refused to use it to His advantage
 - Stories of Mythical gods say they would come and take from man
 - Jesus Christ came not to take, but to give! Which included His life.

C. The Exalted Christ v9-11

- *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name”* v9
 - Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, the position of supreme power.
 - Ephesians 1:20-21 *“Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come”*
- *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* v10-11

Philippians 3:7-16 – Press On in Christ

Introduction

- Too many ‘Christians’ get wrapped up in earthly things
- In this chapter Paul describes his past, present, and future

Reevaluation of the Past v7, 8

- Old life was of great value v7
 - Gain to me – (Profit)
 - List the things that used to make up his identity v3-6
 - Valuable to the world, but nothing compared to Christ
- Lost a lot for Christ v8
 - Suffered the loss of all things as a follower of Christ
 - His commitment brought him great persecution
 - 2 Corinthians 11:23-33
 - “*Count them but dung, that I may win Christ*”
 - Again – Nothing compares to Christ

Righteousness in the Present v9, 10

- *Be found in him v9a*
 - Wanted to be fully identified as a follower of Christ – (What does it take?)
 - Life utterly committed to Christ
 - Life utterly trusting in Christ
 - Life that in its thoughts and actions reflects Christ
- Must let God lead v9b
 - God has supplied the means of our salvation
 - Instead of trusting our abilities to be righteous, we must put our trust in Jesus to provide all the righteousness we need
 - Man tries to be independent, but we must trust God to lead
 - Not trusting is what gets us in trouble
- *That I may know him v10a*
 - To know Christ is not to merely know His story, or even affirm His authority
 - BUT to live a life that imitates His
 - James 2:19-20 “*Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*”
 - Prove your faith by how you live your life
- *And the power of his resurrection v10b*
 - Paul noted he lost all things
 - To follow after Christ means you will suffer losses
 - Christ did give up all things – (His life)
 - God the Father answered His loss by raising Him from the Dead
 - Answers our loss by giving us eternal life
- *And the fellowship of his sufferings v10c*
 - Christ suffering was to bring blessings to others
 - Give our lives for the sakes of others
 - Living for Christ takes its toll on you, but is worth it!
 - Persecution from world
 - Time away from family, friends – (preachers)

- Paul Hagen said he resigns many Sunday Nights
- *Being made comfortable unto his death v10d*
 - The climax of Christ earthly ministry was His sacrificial death.
 - Followers do travel the same path – (Not all Physically)
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*

Resurrection in the Future v11

- Be confident in your future with Christ
 - Dr Gary Habermas – Testimony

Goal to Grasp v12

- God had a purpose for Paul
 - Getting saved we go from Dead to Life
 - Follow after Christ who apprehended you
 - Ask and do what God wants you to do

Race to the finish v13, 14

- Take ahold of the future v13
 - Life long process – (Future needs to be the focus)
- Paul’s eyes were on the prize v14
 - Often use run analogies – (Endure, Prizes, crowns)
 - In Ancient Greece to race you had to be a free man – not a slave
 - When your born again you are set free from sin
 - Each Christian is given a special place on Gods track for His service
 - Run, Endure, Give 100%
 - Long distance race would be correct correlation
 - Keep your eye on the prize

Conclusion

- We need to closely examine our lives everyday
- What direction are you going?
 - Old pastor asking God to show him his faults to clean up
- Nothing is worth losing your soul over
 - Forget what you left behind
 - Focus on the prize ahead

Bible Study Method #4: Topical/Word Study

Brief Recap – Verse by Verse Overview

- Verse-by-verse study is the analysis confined to a select few verses in a passage
- Allows for detailed understanding of the text by drawing out exact meaning. Pairing with book and chapter overview highly recommended.

Topical/Word

- General Summary of Method
 - Topical Bible study is the study of the topical teachings in the Bible. This type of study can also be confined to a particular book or chapter. Basically this study is where you analyze a topic or word in further detail throughout the book, chapter, or entire Bible.
- Purpose
 - To gain a better insight on what the Bible teaches us about a particular topic or word.
 - Examples: Love, Sanctification, Strength, Prayer, Miracles, Angels, Weakness.
- Things to Keep in Mind
 - Be exact and try to get the exact meaning for each verse that you are studying.
 - Remember not to remove the verses from their context but use the context to help you in your study. (Don't make it fit!)
 - Be thorough by studying every verse that is related to the topic.
- Basic Outline for a Topical/Word Study
 - Compile a list of words related to the topic you will study
 - Collect all references relating to each word
 - Consider each reference individually
 - Compare and group the references
 - Condense the results of your study into a brief outline

Example Topical Study

Strength

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for **I [am] with thee**: be not dismayed; for **I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee**; yea, **I will help thee**; yea, **I will uphold thee** with the right hand of my righteousness.

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 - And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the **power of Christ** may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:10 - Therefore I take **pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake**: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Ephesians 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the **power of his might**.

Christians Strength

1) Christ is the source of our strength

- I am thy God, I will strengthen the
- Through Christ which strengthen me
- My Grace is sufficient for the: for my strength is made perfect in weakness
- Be strong in the Lord
- Power of His might

2) Christ Strengthening Paul's Life while in Prison – (Philippians)

Philippians 4:11-13 – Context behind this statement by Paul

Think about this

- Written by Paul to the Philippian church
- Imprisoned but speaks mostly of victory & Joy
- How is this possible?

1) Paul's Situation

- Imprisoned on House arrest
 - Beat, mocked, betrayed, persecuted before this.
- What if you were in his shoes?

2) How can have victory & Joy?

- He was focused on Jesus Christ!
 - Philippians 3:13-14 *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”*
- What are you focusing on?

3) Nothing in this world is worth losing your soul!

- Paul gave up a life of gain to follow and serve Christ
 - Philippians 3:7-8 *“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ”*
- What's holding you back?

4) Christ is the source of the believer's strength

- Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"*
 - Keys to doing all things through Christ
 1. Prayer – (In Everything) v6
 - Constant communication
 2. Living for Him – (DO) v9
 - Walking the Talk

5) Christ is all you Need

- Peace of God v7
 - Through it all
- Be Content v11
 - No matter what
- Any situation v12
 - Because Christ is our Strength v13

Impact of Christ

Prophecies of Christ birth

- Isaiah 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"*
- Isaiah 9:6 *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

Christ Birth – (significance of)

- John 1:14 *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"*
- John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*

Control of Nature – (Power demonstrated)

- Calming the storm
- Walking on water

Tempted with Sin – (Same as man)

- Wilderness

Impact on Individuals – (Changed Lives for better)

- Healed Diseases (Leprosy) (Issue of Blood)
- Healed Blind (To See)
- Healed Cripple (Lame man)
- Fed the Multitude
- Brought Dead to Life (Lazarus)

What he did for us – (Died)

- John 10:11 *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”*
- Romans 5:10 *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life”*

You can be saved – (Died and Rose Again)

Romans 10:9-10 *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*

Bible Study Method #5: Biographical

Brief Recap – Topical/Word Overview

- Topical Bible study is the study of the topical teachings in the Bible. This type of study can also be confined to a particular book or chapter. Basically this study is where you analyze a topic or word in further detail throughout the book, chapter, or entire Bible.
- Purpose
 - To gain a better insight on what the Bible teaches us about a particular topic or word.
 - Examples: Love, Sanctification, Strength, Prayer, Miracles, Angels, Weakness.

Bible Study Method #5: Biographical

People like us

- People like us - Jas 5:17 *“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months”*

Information varies and determines how much to use per character (Uriah Hittite vs David)

Biographical Outline

1. Scripture references in Bible
2. Name meaning
3. When they lived
4. Where they lived
5. Family background
6. Influences on those around (nation, family, etc.)
7. Belief background and influences
8. Major events in life
9. Life line with God (beginning to end)
10. General summary of the above information

Key Verses/Lessons taught by their life

- Paul – (2 Timothy 4:1-8)
 - Always ready to preach – (2 Timothy 4:4)
 - Was BOLD – (Acts 28:31)
 - Suffered but endured – (2 Cor 11:25-30)
 - Christ was a priority – (Philippians 3:14)

What was the Hebrew Name of Paul?

- Acts 9:1 – (Saul)

Where was Paul born?

- Acts 21:39 – (Jew of Tarsus)

What tribe of Israel was he from?

- Romans 11:1 – (Benjamin)

In his youth, what kind of education did he receive?

- Acts 26:4 – 5 *“My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee”*

Was Paul (Saul) initially favorable toward believers in Christ?

- Acts 8:3 – (made havoc of the church)

How zealous was Paul for Judaism?

- Acts 9:1-2 *“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem”*

How did God get his attention?

- Acts 9:3-6, 8-9 – (Called him out, shined a light on him)

What did God want to accomplish through him?

- Acts 9:15-16 – *“But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake”*

After his conversion, did it take Paul a long time to preach?

- Acts 9:19–22 – (Straightway he preached)

How did Paul escape his first death threat?

- Acts 9:23-25 – (down the wall in a basket)

Was he readily accepted by believers in Jerusalem?

- Acts 9:26 – (People were Iffy) – (Do you blame them)

Where were believers first called Christians?

- Acts 11:25–26 – (Antioch)

How were Paul and Silas freed from a jail?

- Acts 16:25-26 – (Prayed, sang praises, earthquake, doors opened)

Did Paul ever benefit from his Roman citizenship?

- Acts 22:25- (Feared to punish him)

Did he safely travel from Caesarea to Rome?

- Acts 27 – (Shipwrecked, but protected by God)

Was he ever intimidated by the twelve apostles?

- Paul was a man of strong convictions. Taught to be a Pharisee, he no doubt learned how to debate and argue with others over doctrines, teachings and traditions. He did not hesitate to confront the apostle Peter when he saw him acting contrary to the gospel (Galatians 1)!

Who were some of Paul's traveling companions?

- The Bible names several people directly who Paul took on his five evangelistic missions. They are Barnabas (Acts 11:29 – 30), Mark (John Mark, Acts 12:25), Barsabas and Silas (Acts 15:22), Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:18), Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, Trophimus and Timothy (Acts 20:4) and Luke (2Timothy 4:11).

Example of Biographical Sermon

Ready like Paul – 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Introduction

- Man with a testimony
- Persecuted the Church
- Raised to be a Pharisee
- Saved by Jesus Christ
- 13-14 NT books
- One of his last messages here

1) Ready to Share the Gospel

A. Paul was always ready to share the Gospel v2

- Preach the Word! – (Didn't matter the Crowd)
- Be Instant – (Always ready)
- Reprove, rebuke, exhort – (Stood up for the truth)

B. Are you always ready to share the truth?

- Are you ready to preach the word? – (What if you had the spotlight), (Actors, etc.)
- Never know when opportunity will present itself – (Be ready)
- Stand up for the truth – Many Lies v 3-5 - (Abortion)
 1. Those that stand for the truth will be persecuted!

2) Ready to Suffer for Christ

A. Paul endured afflictions v5 – (Physically & Emotionally)

- 2 Corinthians 11:25-28
 - Christ was his priority – (I imagine him at night praying with tears)
 - Philippians 3:14 “*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*”

B. Most don't know what true suffering is

- Hard enough to get people to show up to church
- How much does Christ mean to you? – (We mean a lot to Him)

3) Ready to Die

A. Paul was prepared to be with Christ – v6-8

- Lived his life for God & kept the faith v7
 - Knew he was going to be with the Lord!

B. Are you prepared to be with Christ?

- Everyone is going to die – (No one wants to talk about it)
- Have you lived your life for God? – (Too late when you in front of Him)
- Friend Passing Away – (How hopeless and scared he must have been) – (Becky's Testimony)
 - You can be prepared like Paul – Can you claim v7
 - Pawpaw's Uncle with Cancer – Don't boast thyself of tm

Closing

- Paul made God #1 priority in his life
 - Always ready to share the gospel
 - Always ready to suffer for Christ
 - He was always ready to Die because he knew where he was going