

WITHIN HIS WORD

Personal Bible Study Method:

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them (Psalm 111:2)

Sometimes it's hard to figure out how to approach your personal Bible study time. Where do I start? How do I study? What do I look for? These questions can overwhelm us.

WITHIN wants to encourage a method that doesn't rush through God's Word for the sake of reading, but we believe it's important to take your time savoring God's word and digging deep and comprehending it so that you behold the glory of God, His Son Jesus & the Holy Spirit through the text.

This method is to instill those habits. In a busy world, we often are tempted with the habits of snacking on God's Word instead of the habit of feasting on His Word. Feasting takes time. It takes intentionality. It's a posture of humility, knowing that God's Word isn't unlike any other book. It takes prayer, knowing that God is communing with us through His Word and it's through His Holy Spirit that He helps us understand God's Word.

*Below you will find a method that helps you focus on **one chapter a week** for any book in the Word of God that you choose to study.*

One Chapter a Week

(Books with 1-16 chapters)

Below, you will find guidance on what to do each day of the week(One chapter a week) as you delve into a study of a book in the Bible.

Day 1: Take the time to...

1. Pray over your study of the particular book with these verses from Psalms.

- a. Incline my heart to you Lord and not selfish gain (Psalm 119:36)
 - b. **O**pen my eyes that I may behold wonderous things from your law (Psalm 119:18)
 - c. **U**nite my heart to fear Your name (Psalm 86:11)
 - d. **S**atisfy me in the morning with your steadfast love (Psalm 90:14)
2. Encourage you to read the entire book straight through once. Even if it's a long book, read through it so you have a sense of the themes discussed in the book.
 3. Take note of the author and to whom it's written to.
 4. Take note of the purpose of the book (can be found in the beginning of the Book in most Study Bibles)
 5. What style of book is it? ***(It's important to know that the way we read, interpret and apply differs with styles of books)***
 - a. Narrative (Genesis through Esther) -they include the books of the Law
 - b. Poetry (Psalms, Song of Solomon)
 - c. Wisdom (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)
 - d. Prophecy (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Malachi, Micah, Hosea, Haggai, Zephaniah, Amos, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk)
 - e. Letters by Epistles (Romans-Jude)
 - f. Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Day 2: Take time to go through Chapter 1 of the book and focus on first half of the chapter *(if the chapter has 24 verses, focus on first 12 verses on this day)**

1. Pray over your study of the particular book with these verses from Psalms.
 - a. Incline my heart to yours, Lord

- b. **Open my eyes to see you clearly, Lord**
 - c. **Unite my mind to your ways, Lord**
 - d. **Satisfy my soul with Your words, Lord**
2. Read through the first chapter before going through the first half of the chapter
 3. Take notes on the first half of the chapter- **verse by verse** (look at scriptures that are footnoted in these passages to see where else in the Bible the verse is related to or has connection to)
 - a. Remember, when reading scripture, we are **first reading about what is written to the people in that context, not to us first**. This is the beginning of rightly interpreting scripture.
 4. Make note of any words, concepts or phrases you don't know-write them down to look them up. Write down questions you have or things you are not understanding. Make note of the historical contexts being pointed out.
 - a. It helps to understand some of the words in the original Greek or Hebrew meaning to get better understanding of the word and how it's used to understand what's being said. You can look online to see the Greek or Hebrew or Aramaic translation of a particular word.

*****Day 3: Do the same as Day 2 but for the second half of the chapter*****

Day 4: Ask questions...

1. Pray over your study of the particular book with these verses from Psalms.
 - a. **Incline my heart to yours, Lord**
 - b. **Open my eyes to see you clearly, Lord**

- c. **Unite** my mind to your ways, Lord
 - d. **Satisfy** my soul with Your words, Lord
2. What characteristics of God is this chapter showing me?
- a. Example: His Sovereignty, His Love, His patience, His wrath, His grace, His steadfastness, His Holiness...etc.)
3. What does it show me about the sinfulness of mankind?
- a. Example: pride, selfishness, rebellion, hardened heart, etc.
4. Where do I see the Gospel or aspects of the Gospel in this? (**remember that even in the Old Testament, the story of redemption is there. While we may not see the name Jesus or even the death and resurrection in there, know that God's plan for our redemptions started way back in Genesis. When we sin, or when we read about the priests or kings or prophets, it's a reminder that there is only ONE true priest, king or prophet—JESUS. All of scripture is pointing to Him. It takes time and study to see that so don't feel discouraged**)
- a. Sin
 - b. Wrath
 - c. Redemption
 - d. Jesus
 - e. Resurrection
 - f. Justification
 - g. Forgiveness
 - h. Sanctification
5. How do I apply this to my life in light of what I am learning about God, His commands, and living out my salvation?
- a. How does it change how I think?

- b. How does it change how I feel or how should I submit what I feel?
- c. How does it change how I act?

Day 5: Read 1 or 2 different Bible translations of the chapter from the translation you are using to study

(When studying, you want to make sure you are studying a translation that is most accurate to the original text. You don't want to use translations that are paraphrases like The Message, The Passion Bible which are thought for thought translations but you want to use word-for-word translations)

1. NASB, ESV, NIV, CSB,
 - a. Take note of the different words used and see if the translations you read help you better understand what you are reading.

Day 6: Take time to look at commentary

1. This is last because it's important to trust the Holy Spirit in you to make observations first without seeing someone's work.
2. Here are some good commentaries:
 - a. ESV app has good study material
 - b. Matthew Henry's Commentary
 - c. New Bible Commentary
 - d. The Baker Commentary of the Bible

Day 7: Take time to pray the chapter

- In your prayer, acknowledge what you learned about God
- Because you've spent a week reading one chapter, you will find that you've memorized some parts of it so it's important and encouraging to pray what you've memorized

- Pray that God helps you to understand his commands through what you've read and live it out through a transformed life
 - Pray on what you are still having a hard time understanding
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******Continue this for each chapter of the book (if the book is 5 chapters, this should take 5 weeks. 10 chapters, 10 weeks, etc. But if it takes longer because you want to focus on a chapter for longer than a week, that is totally fine! There is no limit or time constraint when studying God's Word.******

*****With books more than 16 chapters, follow the same pattern as above but you can focus on more chapters (2-3) each week (depending on how long the book is) instead of a chapter a week. However, that is up to you. If you want to follow the same one chapter a week, that is a great choice as well!*****

If you have ANY questions OR need clarification on anything, PLEASE email withinministry@gmail.com