

HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study One: How To Appreciate
The Purpose And Practice Of
Bible Study**

The Continuous Theme Of Scripture

☐ “It is the **spirit** that quickeneth; the **flesh** profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are **spirit**, and they are life”.

John 6:63

☐ “For the minding of the **flesh** is death, but the minding of the **spirit** is life and peace. Because the minding of the **flesh** is enmity against God”.

Romans 8:6-7

☐ “Walk in the **spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the **flesh**. For the **flesh** lusteth against the **spirit**, and the **spirit** against the **flesh**: and these are contrary the one to the other”.

Galatians 5:16-17

The Continuous Theme Of Scripture

❑ “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be **good**, or whether it be **evil**”.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

❑ “Abhor that which is **evil**; cleave to that which is **good**. Be not overcome of **evil**, but overcome evil with **good**”.

Romans 12:9,21

❑ “Beloved, follow not that which is **evil**, but that which is **good**. He that doeth **good** is of God: but he that doeth **evil** hath not seen God”.

3 John 11

The Continuous Theme Of Scripture

❑ “I will put **enmity** between thee (the **serpent**) and the **woman**, and between **thy seed** and **her seed**; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”.

Genesis 3:15

❑ “And the **serpent** cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the **woman**...and was wroth with the woman, and went to make war (**enmity**) with the remnant of **her seed**, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus”.

Revelation 12:15-17

The Seed Of The Serpent Is At War

❖ “I am convinced that **the battle** for mankind’s future must be waged and won... by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytisers of **a new faith: a religion of humanity** that recognises and respects the spark of divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilising the classroom instead of the pulpit to convey **Humanist values**. The classroom must and will become **an arena of conflict** between the old and the new – **the rotting corpse of Christianity**, and **the new faith of Humanism**”.

**J Dunphy, The Humanist
Jan/Feb 1983**

The Evil Doctrine Of The Seed Of The Serpent

is a mode of thinking known as

the thinking of the flesh

which is utterly focused on

SELF

The Changing Face of Humanism

- ❑ **Pre Modernism** - **Truth** is imparted by the clergy who interpret the revelation of God's will. Based upon the dogma of doctrine and the response of faith, the watchword of Pre Modernism is - **I believe**
- ❑ **Modernism** - **Truth** is established by the evidence of objective thought and rational order. Based upon the proof of science and the logic of reason, the watchword of Modernism is - **I know**
- ❑ **Post Modernism** - **Truth** is constructed by the the individual as a reality for themselves. Based upon the intuition of subjective opinion and personal experience, the watchword of Postmodernism is - **I feel**

The Madness Of Postmodernism

- ❖ **Religion** - Since reality is not fixed, religion is not about conformity to doctrines, but about subjective, personal, mystical experience. Religion is a framework for personal discovery.
- ❖ **History** - Texts never tell us what happened. A thing is always important to some people but not to others, therefore a history only tells of that historian's cultural bias.
- ❖ **Education** - Educators are biased facilitators of knowledge. Education should help students construct useful values for themselves. Efforts to teach children to conform to established rules is domination.

The Madness Of Postmodernism

- ❖ **Literature** - The author is irrelevant to the meaning. The reader becomes the centre of learning. Texts are to be deconstructed to unveil their cultural bias, leaving the reader free to give the texts their own meaning.
- ❖ **Science** - Science arrives at its 'truths' in response to social forces both within and without the scientific community. The apparent process of rational thought is therefore still biased.
- ❖ **Psychology** - Reality for each individual is valid in its context. The therapist should never seek to correct the patient's view by comparing it to any standard of truth, since nothing is right or wrong, or true or untrue.

Postmodernism & The Death Of Truth

- ❑ **Truth** – May be determined by what helps human function, since man is the measure of all things.
- ❑ **Truth** – Is not discovered but constructed within the cultural environment that the individual experiences, and by the values that their society has shaped. What is **truth** for one person therefore, may or may not be **truth** to another since our belief systems may be completely different but equally valid.
- ❑ **Truth** – Is a relative term that cannot be fixed by outside reality, but is decided by the individual or group for themselves. Since reality itself is only individual opinion, there can be no such thing as absolute truth.

Evidence Of The Serpent's Bite

Do you agree with this statement:
Moral truth is relative to circumstances

Do you agree with this statement:
Moral truth is absolute and unchanging

Adults	Teenagers
64.00%	83.00%
22.00%	6.00%

**Barna Research, USA
2002**

God Operates In Absolute Truths

☐ “And God said, let there be **light**: and there was **light**. And God saw the **light** that it was **good**: and God divided the **light** from the darkness”.

Genesis 1:3-4

☐ “When I looked for **good**, then **evil** came unto me: and when I waited for **light**, there came **darkness**”.

Job 30:26

☐ “light is come into the world, and men loved **darkness** rather than light, because their deeds were **evil**. For every one that doeth **evil** hateth the light”.

John 3:19-20

Man In A State Of Ignorant Darkness

❖ “The path of the just is as the shining **light**...the way of the wicked is as **darkness**: they know not at what they stumble”.

Proverbs 4:18-19

❖ “For he cometh in... and departeth in **darkness**, and his name shall be covered in **darkness**. Moreover he hath not seen the sun nor known any thing”.

Ecclesiastes 6:4-5

❖ “Walk while ye have the **light**, lest **darkness** come upon you, for he that walketh in **darkness** knoweth not whither he goeth”.

John 12:35

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John 12:35

God The Source Of Enlightenment

🔲 “For thou wilt **light** my lamp: the LORD my God will enlighten my **darkness**”.

Psalm 18:28

🔲 “He revealeth the deep and secret things: **he knoweth** what is in the **darkness**, and the **light** dwelleth with him”.

Daniel 2:22

🔲 “that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of **darkness** into his marvellous **light**”.

1 Peter 2:9

The Purpose Of Bible Study

- ❑ **Isaiah 55:6-11, Psalm 119:9-16** - God's ways and thoughts are on a higher plane than ours. Since the great objective of the truth is to manifest God in our lives, we must study scripture to understand his principles and thoughts.
- ❑ **1 Corinthians 1:19-25** - Human philosophy and divine principle are not only different but divergent. We cannot manifest God or appreciate providence unless we are aware of his principles.
- ❑ **Isaiah 8:20, Psalm 145:5,11,21** - Spiritual meditation is therefore not optional but essential to living the truth. Our reverential application to reading the Word is the key to God Manifestation.

School of the Prophets (No. 1)

How to master the secrets of Bible study

- How to appreciate the purpose and practice of Bible study
- How to master different types and methods of Bible study
- How to learn the skill of a contextual Bible scholar
- How to learn the secret of sound Bible reasoning
- How to gain pleasure and profit from the Bible readings
- How to prepare and implement a Bible study programme
- How to organise and use a Bible study library
- How to set effective spiritual goals using Bible examples
- How to be an excellent Bible reader

School of the Prophets (No. 2)

How to guard the heritage of Bible truth

- How to value the story of the School of the Prophets
- How to guard the ancient landmark of the Truth
- How to greatly benefit from the pioneer writings
- How to learn the secret of sound Bible reasoning
- How to select and research Bible study topics
- How to develop and organise Bible study themes
- How to construct and present powerful Bible studies
- How to offer effective public prayers
- How to deliver excellent public readings

HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Two: How To Master
Different Types And Methods
Of Bible Study**

Types Of Bible Study

Book -

develops a knowledge of:

-  the revelation of divine thoughts
-  the unfolding of God's purpose
-  the epochs of Bible history

Word -

creates an awareness of:

-  the uniqueness of divine language
-  the value of contextual meanings
-  the substance of Bible words

Doctrinal -

builds a conviction in:

-  the importance of divine doctrine
-  the power of moral truths
-  the unity of Bible foundations

Types Of Bible Study

- Prophetic - establishes an appreciation for:**
-  the greatness of divine control
 -  the excitement of fulfilling signs
 -  the certainty of Bible promises
- Thematic - forms a recognition of:**
-  the pattern of divine principles
 -  the prevalence of golden themes
 -  the wonder of Bible harmony
- Character - increases an understanding of:**
-  the reality of divine providence
 -  the emotion of spiritual growth
 -  the wisdom of Bible counsel

Methods Of Bible Study

Follow the sequence

Find The Facts

What are the key details which provide a proper understanding of the verse?

Context - Cross References - Key Questions

Establish The Principle

What divine principles are implicit in the meaning of the verse or passage?

Is it universally true? - Is it always applicable?

Apply The Exhortation

What specific matters of exhortation are there from the application of the principle?

Circumstance - Special Need - Stage of Life

Methods Of Bible Study

Ask key questions

 What

 Why

 When

 How

 Where

 Who

Methods Of Bible Study

Open the narrative

 **Microscopic**

 **Telescopic**

 **Macroscopic**

Methods Of Bible Study

Read with careful attention to detail

-  **Read to become familiar with the narrative**
-  **Read to decide on the central theme**
-  **Read to establish the main sections**
-  **Read to find the key words and phrases**
-  **Read to discover the presence of allusions**
-  **Read to compare with other reliable translations**
-  **Read to confirm the flow of the context**

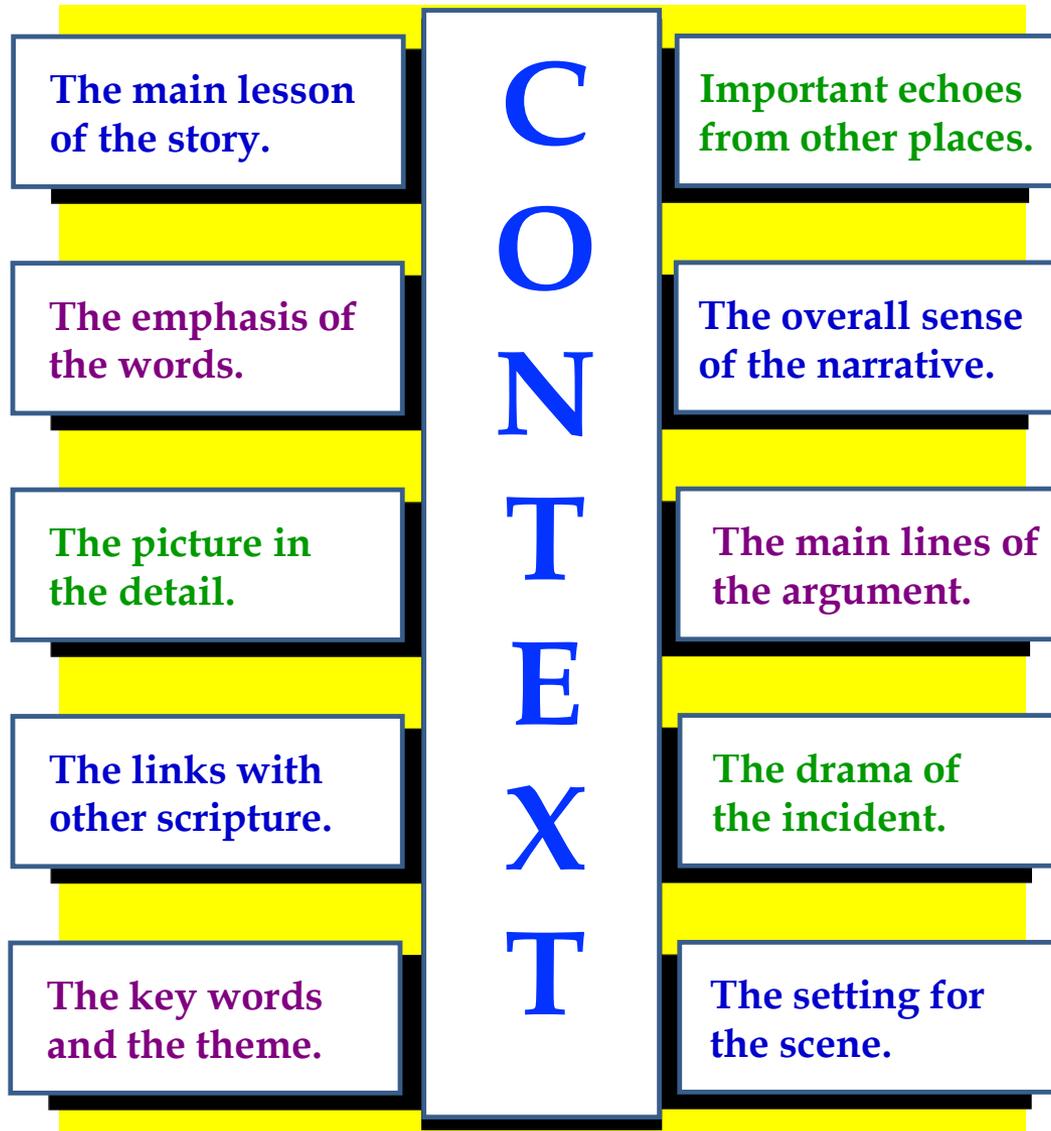
HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Three: How To Develop
The Skill Of A Contextual
Bible Scholar**

Hints For The Contextual Scholar

- ❖ Not everyone will be competent textual scholars but we should all be good contextual scholars.
- ❖ Contextual scholarship is a system of Bible study that places great emphasis on **letting the Bible speak for itself**.
- ❖ It brings together the best scriptural, historical, geographical, archaeological information to help place **any Bible passage in its own contextual setting**.
- ❖ Contextual scholarship is based on the foundation that unless the Bible itself indicates to the contrary, the best rendering of a passage will be to take **its literal, precise and natural meaning**.

Key Elements Of Contextual Study



The Skill Of Good Bible Reading

Good Bible study is based on Good Bible reading

- Read to learn the story
- Read to practice the emphasis
- Read to capture the detail
- Read to compare the scripture
- Read to establish the theme
- Read to catch the echo
- Read to obtain an overview
- Read to trace the argument
- Read to dramatise the incident
- Read to reconstruct the scene

Case Study For Good Bible Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-12

- ❑ What two things is Ezra called in this passage?
Answer: Ezra the scribe (v1), Ezra the priest (v2)
- ❑ How many hours did Ezra speak for?
Answer: Six hours - from 6.00am to 12.00 noon (v3)
- ❑ Was the pulpit of wood Ezra stood on new or old?
Answer: New - since made for the purpose (v4)
- ❑ On what day was the reading done?
Answer: The 1st day of the 7th month (v2)
- ❑ Which city gate did they assemble before?
Answer: The Water Gate (v3)

Case Study For Good Bible Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-12

- ❑ When exactly did the people stand up?
Answer: When Ezra opened the book of the law (v 5)
- ❑ What posture did the people adopt for prayer?
Answer: They bowed their faces to the ground (v6)
- ❑ Where did the two groups of 13 men stand?
Answer: Beside Ezra (v4), and among the people (v7)
- ❑ What did Nehemiah do at the meeting?
Answer: He helped to teach the people (v9)
- ❑ What key word is used at least 6x in the passage?
Answer: Understand '*biyn*' (vs 2,3,7,8,9,12)

HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Four: How To Learn
The Secret Of Sound
Bible Reasoning**

The Evil Doctrine Of The Seed Of The Serpent

is a mode of thinking known as

the thinking of the flesh

which is utterly focused on

SELF

The Secret Power Of The Seed Of The Woman

is a mode of thinking known as

the thinking of the spirit

which is utterly focused on

GOD

Christ's Dependence On Scripture

▣ Have Ye Not Read

Christ dealt with questions from others by providing an answer sourced from an appropriate scripture.

Matthew 12:2-4, Matthew 19:3-6, Matthew 22:28-33

▣ It Is Written

Christ explained the meaning of current events by making reference to a relevant scripture.

Mark 7:6-9, Mark 11:15-18, Mark 14:26-28

▣ That The Scripture Might Be Fulfilled

Christ was aware of God's unfolding purpose in his own life in the context of fulfilling scripture.

John 13:18-21, John 17:11-13, John 19:28-30

The Power Of Scriptural Reasoning

- ❖ Using Bible principles to assess and the solve a problem, helps us to view the whole matter from the Divine perspective.
- ❖ Any problem may have several Bible principles that might be brought to bear on arriving at a scripturally sound answer.
- ❖ Bible principles are by their very nature non-specific, and therefore their application to a specific problem has to be thought out carefully.
- ❖ If we cannot find satisfactory Bible principles to support what we are doing, then we need to think about whether to continue or not.

The Process Of Spiritual Thinking

- ❖ What is an accurate definition and summary of the actual problem?
- ❖ What Bible principles might be directly involved in this problem?
- ❖ What specific Bible passages could be relevant to this problem?
- ❖ What overall Biblical solution should be applied to this problem?

Bible Passages

Bible
Principle

Bible Passages

Bible
Principle

Bible Passages

Bible
Principle

What is
the actual
problem?

Bible Passages

Bible
Principle

Bible
Principle

Bible Passages

Bible Principles

Bible
Passage

Bible Principles

Bible
Passage

What is
the actual
problem?

Bible Principles

Bible
Passage

Bible Principles

Bible
Passage

Bible
Passage

Bible Principles

Case Study For Scriptural Reasoning

An issue of practice

❖ “An ecclesial appeal is received to support a new Christadelphian initiative for an assistance programme in needy countries. The brochure does not mention any specific preaching activity, but does state that the focus is on broad community social welfare projects to help alleviate human suffering. Caring support workers may in fact be needed for involvement in many of the projects. The entire enterprise will be operated by a committee of responsible brothers and sisters and be properly administered under the terms of a Charitable Trust.

What would your instinctive reaction be:

To support?

To not support?

Christ said: 'the poor have the gospel preached to them': **Matthew 11:5, Luke 4:18, 7:22**

Christ said: 'for ye have the poor always with you': **Matthew 26:11, Mark 14:7, John 12:8**

Both OT and NT teach that the saints are separated from this present world as sojourners who have no part in this order of things:

**Genesis 23:4, Psalm 39:12
Hebrews 11:13, 1 Peter 2:11**

What is the role of a stranger and a pilgrim?

What does Christ teach on the subject?

The apostles preached the gospel: **Acts 8:25, 9:27, 14:21, Col 1:23, 1 Timothy 3:16**

The only social welfare matters recorded were collections for saints: **Acts 6:1, Romans 15:26, 2 Corinthians 8:2, 9:9**

Should we establish and support global social welfare programmes?

What was the example of the apostles?

Bible Passages

Both OT and NT teach individual response as occasion requires, but focused on the saints:

**Deut 15:7-11
Galatians 6:8-10**

What Biblical evidence is there in favour?

What Biblical evidence is there against?

Global Social Welfare & The Truth

- ❑ “YYY supports sustainable social development in some of the poorest countries in the world. It is currently active in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. It **works to facilitate self sufficiency and self worth** through sustainable local projects”.
- ❑ “YYY operates primarily with grass roots, locally run projects and **works to help overcome the problems of hunger, disease,** disability, destitution and homelessness”.
- ❑ “YYY **works to promote agriculture, clean water,** basic health care and education, and to encourage sharing, learning and service to others”.



HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Five: How To Obtain
Pleasure And Profit From The
Daily Bible Readings**

Profitable Daily Bible Readings

Observe the following simple guiding rules

- ❖ Have a definite time for the readings and keep to it each day, and if doing one reading stay consistently with that portion.
- ❖ Consider doing the readings at the table so that good notes can be made.
- ❖ Provide a variety of activities, so that each occasion of the readings is unique and special. Always ask questions before the reading begins, as well as afterwards.
- ❖ Keep a notebook to record unanswered questions on the readings.

Profitable Daily Bible Readings

Establish the value of marginal cross references

- ❖ Buy Bibles with centre margin cross references, and always carefully check those references first.
- ❖ Use cross references to establish or enlarge the proper meaning of the passage.
- ❖ Always ensure that both sides of a cross reference are marked into your margin.
- ❖ Practise the checking and marking of cross references as a critical aspect of good contextual scholarship, where scripture calls to scripture, and scripture is used to answer scripture.

Profitable Daily Bible Readings

Encourage the search for special Bible themes

- ❖ Choose a theme that can be easily followed in the readings throughout the year.
- ❖ Organise a method for recording references which are related to the theme.
- ❖ Collate the results into a visual outline which can then be sequenced and ordered.
- ❖ Prepare a synopsis of your research with your final conclusions and mark it into the appropriate place in scripture as a theme summary box.

Profitable Daily Bible Readings

Promote the use of scripture reference books

- ❖ Use the Bible readings as an opportunity to practise the use of a Bible concordance, Bible lexicon, Bible atlas and Bible dictionary.
- ❖ Use the scripture in the pioneer writings to search for helpful explanations on a passage.
- ❖ Show the value of other books in your Bible study library by using them actively during questions in the Bible readings.
- ❖ Try to produce seven books from your Bible study library with information on the topic under review during the Bible readings.

Profitable Daily Bible Readings

Stress the importance of personal practical application

- Begin with simple moral lessons direct from the narrative: respect, honesty, loyalty, kindness etc.
- Explain and practise how to move from the facts to the principle to the exhortation.
- Discuss how a Bible episode and its principles might have application in several different circumstances in life, and how this leads to different exhortations.
- Use the readings to observe how several different Bible principles might be involved, and how to give weight to them in a particular situation.

Profitable Daily Bible Readings

Develop the habit of regular Bible marking

- ❑ Buy Bibles with wide margins to encourage the marking of notes.
- ❑ Always try to mark in something from every occasion of Bible reading.
- ❑ Discuss together how best to summarise the point for marking, and where exactly it should be placed.
- ❑ Try to conserve valuable margin space, by using concise language. Marking in Bible principles is the best use of that space, as principles are eternal.

HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Six: How To Prepare
And Implement A Bible
Study Programme**

Committing To Spiritual Activity

Commit to a proper programme of spiritual activity

Personal Prayers

Three times a day

Morning - Noon - Evening

Bible Readings

Three times a day

Bible Companion portions

Bible Study & Meditation

Three times a week

Have a specific topic and time

Book Readings

Three times a week

Have a book beside the bed

Bible Study Chart - Series One

GENESIS - DEUTERONOMY

The creation & the fall	Genesis 1-3
The Promises to Abraham	Genesis 12-22
The Law of Offerings	Leviticus 1-7
The Calendar of Israel	Leviticus 23

JOSHUA - RUTH

The Cities of refuge	Joshua 20
The Cycle of the Judges	Judges 2
The Appendices to Judges	Judges 17-21
The Parable of Ruth	Ruth 1-4

1 SAMUEL - 2 CHRONICLES

The Slaying of Goliath	1 Samuel 17
The Ark brought to Zion	2 Samuel 6
The Promises to David	2 Samuel 7
The Prayer of Solomon	1 Kings 8

EZRA - ESTHER

Chronology of the Return	-
The Prayers of Nehemiah	Nehemiah
The Reading of the Law	Nehemiah 8
The Parable of Esther	Esther

JOB - SONG OF SOLOMON

Satan in the Book of Job	Job
The Titles of the Psalms	Psalms
The Two Women	Proverbs 1-9
The identity of Koheleth	Ecclesiastes

ISAIAH - DANIEL

The Crisis of Hezekiah	Isaiah 36-39
The Parable of the Potter	Jeremiah 18-19
Valley of the Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37
The Burning Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3

HOSEA - MALACHI

Obadiah	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Haggai	Haggai
Malachi	Malachi

MATTHEW - JOHN

Discourse on the Mount	Matthew 5-7
The Parable of the Sower	Mark 4
The Nativity of Christ	Luke 1-3
The Eight Signs of John	John

ACTS

Sequence of the epistles in Acts	Acts
The parallel of Peter & Paul	Acts 1-12 / 13-28
The five journeys of Paul	Acts
The keys of the kingdom	Acts 2, 10

ROMANS - 2 CORINTHIANS

The justification of faith	Romans 4
The Principles of co-operation	Romans 14
The question of idol meat	I Cor 8-10
Four epistles of Corinth	1 & 2 Cor

Bible Study Chart – Series One

GALATIANS – 2 THESSALONIANS

The spirit of Isa 49 in Galatians	Galatians
The Spiritual Warrior	Ephesians 6
The Servant Prophecies in Phil.	Philippians
The Coming of Christ	1 Thess.

1 TIMOTHY - PHILEMON

The Principle of Godliness	1 Timothy
The Faithful Sayings	1 Tim - Titus
The “Saviour” Passages	1 Tim - Titus
The Spirit of Appeal	Philemon

HEBREWS

The Authorship of Hebrews	-
The Danger of Judaism	Hebrews
The key words ‘better’ and ‘once’	Hebrews
The Motive Power of Faith	Hebrews 11

JAMES - JUDE

Allusions to Proverbs	James
The Theme of Suffering and Glory	1 Peter
The Letter to Kyria	2 John
Contending for the Faith	Jude

REVELATION

Daniel in the Book of Revelation	Revelation
The 7 Letters to the Ecclesias	Revelation 1-3
The Beasts of Revelation	Rev. 12,13,17
The New Jerusalem	Revelation 21

WORD STUDIES

Names and Title of Deity
Know (NT)
World (NT)
Spirit (NT)

DOCTRINAL STUDIES

God Manifestation	-
Devil, Satan and Demons	-
The Promises to Abraham	Genesis 12-22
The Promises to David	2 Samuel 7

PROPHETIC STUDIES

The Invasion of Gog	Ezekiel 38-39
Nebuchadnezzar’s Image	Daniel 2
The Four Great Beasts	Daniel 7
The Olivet Prophecy	Matthew 24-25

THEMATIC STUDIES

The Angels of God
The Cherubim
Events Subsequent to Christ’s Return
Visions of the Kingdom

CHARACTER STUDIES

Abraham and Sarah
Joseph
Hannah
Peter

Building A Bible Study Programme

Be serious in your intention to know Bible truth

-  Remember to keep alternating between different types of study and between OT and NT subjects.
-  Make a specific time for study on your diary and consider it an appointment with God.
-  Have a definite objective for completing a study and the spirit of determination for completing it.
-  Desire to know the whole counsel and character of God and choose studies to help achieve this.
-  Always have your next three studies chosen and work on collecting material for these.

HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Seven: How To Organise
And Use A Bible
Study Library**

Reasons For A Bible Study Library

Be serious in your intention to know Bible truth

- ❖ Understand the benefit of having excellent resource material. Try to accumulate at least seven books for future study in all parts and aspects of scripture.
- ❖ Recognise that one of the most satisfying aspects of spiritual development is to be enriched by reading books which can guide and shape breadth of character and depth of wisdom.
- ❖ Learn the value of good plagiarism. Ideas found and borrowed from books, when woven into our own study and built into our own conviction become our own ideas. We read to 'take ownership' of ideas.

Reasons For A Bible Study Library

Be serious in your intention to know Bible truth

- ❖ **Seek as a priority to accumulate a comprehensive library of the writings of our own Christadelphian community, with a particular focus on the earliest publications.**
- ❖ **Recognise the enormous importance of this literature as the spiritual inheritance of our community, and begin a systematic reading schedule to absorb this communal heritage and understand that resource.**
- ❖ **Avoid the danger of filling your library with useless or worthless writings. Non-Christadelphian authors should write from a biblically conservative basis, predicated on the inspiration of scripture.**

Reasons For A Bible Study Library

Be serious in your intention to know Bible truth

-  Focus on the benefit of building a physical library, and not just a digital one, for the key reasons of accessibility and longevity.
-  Appreciate the importance of 'deep learning', and why this only possible through 'deep reading' and 'deep thinking', and not achievable by mental scanning or copying.
-  Become familiar with the deliberate use of both physical scripture index references, and digital search tools, to transform your library into your primary scriptural information resource.

How To Organise A Study Library

Principal sections of a good Bible study library

Exposition

- Exposition - Foundation
- Exposition - General
- Exposition - Books

Reference

- Reference - Dictionaries
- Reference - Lexicons
- Reference - Translations
- Reference - Commentaries
- Reference - Atlases
- Reference - History
- Reference - Geography
- Reference - Archaeology
- Reference - Canon and Manuscripts

How To Organise A Study Library

Principal sections of a good Bible study library

- ▣ Pioneer
- ▣ Doctrinal
- ▣ Prophetic
- ▣ Thematic
- ▣ Apologetic
- ▣ Exhortational
- ▣ Devotional
- ▣ Practical
 - Practical – The Truth in daily life
 - Practical – Marriage and Family

How To Organise A Study Library

Principal sections of a good Bible study library

- ▣ Ecclesial
- ▣ Biographical
- ▣ Political
- ▣ Pictorial
- ▣ Botanical
- ▣ Jewish
- ▣ General
- ▣ Other Religions
- ▣ Heresy

Appreciating The Truth's Literature

Can you name three books in the following categories?

 The Theme of God Manifestation

 The Doctrine of the Atonement

 The Life of Christ

 The Power of Prayer

 The Role of Israel

Appreciating The Truth's Literature

Can you name three books on the following Bible books?

 The Book of Leviticus

 The Book of Psalms

 The Prophecy of Daniel

 The Epistle to the Hebrews

 The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

Appreciating The Truth's Literature

Can you name three books by the following authors?

- ❑ Brother John Thomas
- ❑ Brother Roberts Roberts
- ❑ Brother Charles (CC) Walker
- ❑ Brother John Carter
- ❑ Brother Islip Collyer

HOW TO MASTER THE SECRETS OF BIBLE STUDY

**Study Eight: How To Set
Effective Spiritual Goals Using
Bible Examples**

The Power Of Authentic Purpose

❑ **“Nothing useful was ever done without a towering resolution that went far in purpose and desire beyond that which it was possible to accomplish”.**

Robert Roberts

The Twin Axes Of Good Goals

Goal Setting



Goal Achieving

Seven Steps For Goal Achievement

Visualise the
Outcome

Brainstorm the
Strategies

Organise the
Sequence

Confirm the
Reward

Establish the
Deadline

Commence the
Actions

Quantify the
Result

Using Goals To Find Your Daily Focus

1 Goal One

2 Goal Two

3 Goal Three

4 Other Things

How To Manage Your Attention

Learn the basic rules of good attention management

- ❑ Always use Next Action lists to schedule your tasks.
- ❑ Review your Next Actions for the next day before you finish today.
- ❑ List everything you intend to finish during the day.
- ❑ Learn to distinguish between Urgent and Important.
- ❑ Decide on the one item that will have the greatest consequence to move your goals forward.
- ❑ Don't clear up "small things" first but launch directly into that major task as the first thing for every morning and get it done.

The Power Of Work Burst Cycles

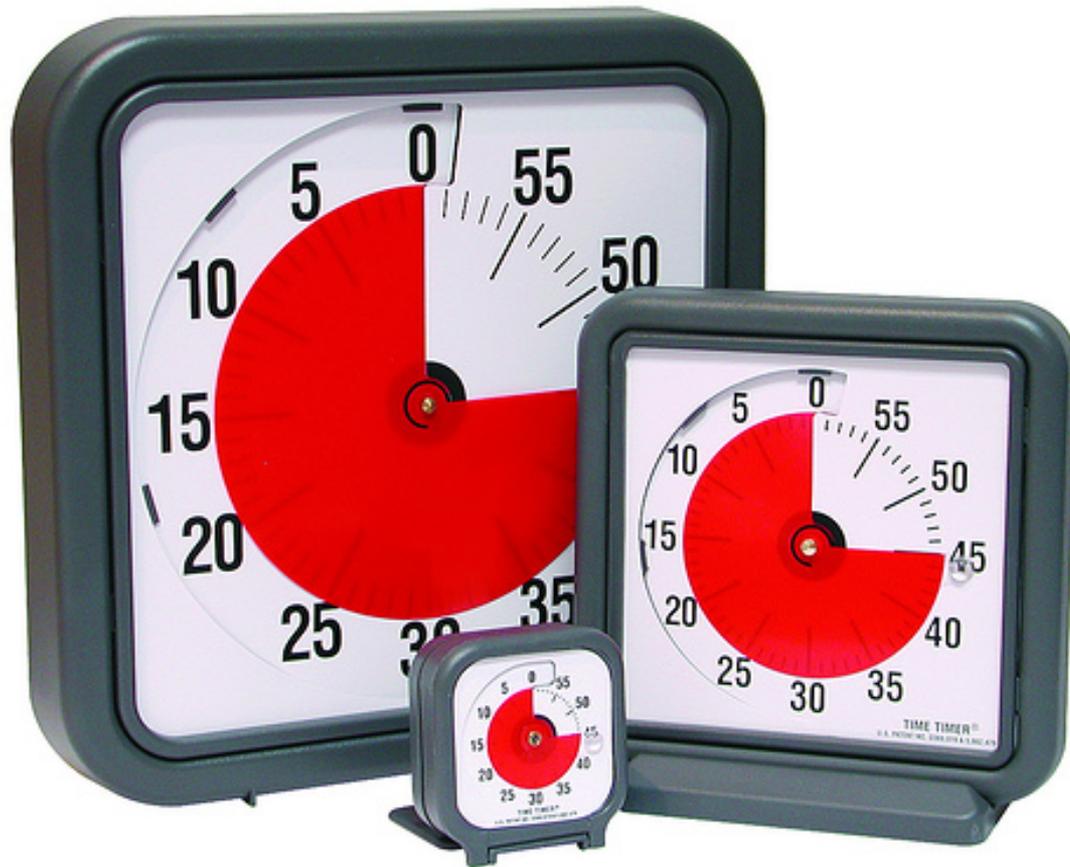
Using cycles to sustain attention to optimal effectiveness

- ❑ Human beings are hard-wired to pulse in rhythm with their energy flows.
- ❑ The basic rest-activity cycle of 90 minutes was first discovered in research on the five stages of sleep patterns.
- ❑ The same pattern operates during the day in cycles of 'ultradian rhythms'.
- ❑ 90 minute work burst cycles followed by a break provide for maximum attentional focus and optimal performance.

Schedule Your Work Burst Cycles



Using A Timer To Focus Work Bursts



Jonathan Was Inspired By Gideon

Why Bible characters are outstanding role models

- ▣ **Judges 6:36-40, 1 Samuel 14:8-10** - They both proposed a sign to show whether God would fight for them.
- ▣ **Judges 7:4,7, 1 Samuel 14:6** - They both appreciated that God could deliver by many or by few.
- ▣ **Judges 7:11, 1 Samuel 14:6** - They both took their faithful servant with them into the enemies lair.
- ▣ **Judges 7:22, 1 Samuel 14:20** - They were both saved by God setting every man's sword against his fellow.
- ▣ **Judges 7:23, 1 Samuel 14:21-22** - They both galvanised others into joining the battle by their heroic action.

Deborah Was Inspired By Miriam

Why Bible characters are outstanding role models

- ▣ **Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4** - They were both prophetesses who saw wider issues in the enemies overthrow.
- ▣ **Exodus 14:7, Judges 4:13** - They both faced an enemy that was mighty in horses and chariots.
- ▣ **Micah 6:4, Judges 5:7** - They were both sent before the nation for deliverance.
- ▣ **Exodus 14:27, Judges 5:21** - They both witnessed a victory by the onrush of water.
- ▣ **Exodus 15:21, Judges 5:3** - They both sang the song of praise to God for the nation's deliverance.

Deborah Was Inspired By Miriam

Why Bible characters are outstanding role models

- ❖ Who could Deborah have as a role model? She was a prophetess which was unusual, and she was also a spiritual leader of the nation which was unique. She looked up to the one woman who had matched her experience in the nation.
- ❖ In Miriam's day there were faithful men that led the congregation. In Deborah's day there were none, since even Barak had to be urged to his role. Yet did she did not seek to supplant him. Cp. **Numbers 12:1,11**
- ❖ Did Deborah see the deliverance of the nation from Sisera, as a repetition of Israel's deliverance from Pharaoh, with a similar opportunity to begin afresh?

Being Inspired By A Bible Hero

Why Bible characters are outstanding role models

- ▣ Who is your special Bible hero whose example you admire?
- ▣ Why does this particular Bible character inspire you?
- ▣ What role consistent with this example do you wish to fulfil in the Kingdom?
- ▣ What skills would you need, to accomplish that task to Yahweh's honour?
- ▣ What steps are you taking now to develop those special abilities for possible future service?

Being Inspired By Asaph's Spirit

Understanding the implications of a Bible role model

- ❖ I am inspired by Asaph because he was able to set a flame in the hearts and minds of his family, which burned with passion for the Truth throughout their generations for over 600 years. This is an astounding example of faithful family life in the Truth.
- ❖ I am inspired by Asaph, because he knew the spirit of acceptable praise before God. The music of this godly family and its principles should be our benchmark for the offering of praise in our own day.
- ❖ I am inspired by Asaph because his family in their successive generations received divine revelation, and always held the Truth on high to the nation.

Being Inspired By Asaph's Spirit

Understanding the implications of a Bible role model

- ▣ I respond to the range of noble emotions stirred up by special music, and feel that music as a physical tide.
 - The mathematical precision of a partita by Bach
 - The singing cantabile of a song by Mendelssohn
 - The brilliant harmonic of an etude by Schumann
 - The strong stirring of a polonaise by Chopin
 - The bright elegance of a sonata by Mozart
 - The stern exalted spirit of a hymn by Brahms
 - The tragic majesty of a symphony by Beethoven
 - The sad pathos of a concerto by Rachmaninoff

- ▣ I have to know that all the feelings brought forth within me by such music are totally consistent with all that is good and wholesome and pure in the Truth.

Being Inspired By Asaph's Spirit

Understanding the implications of a Bible role model

- ❖ I absolutely love the range of colour and light and excellence and mastery in outstanding music. I am astounded by the weaving of multitudinous threads of sound into the tapestry of music.
- ❖ I have chosen never to listen to music that I believe to be inconsistent with the principles of melody in the kingdom, or to music that might give me a distaste for the hymns which we sing within our community.
- ❖ I have studied to understand how music affects both the body and the mind, so as to decide on the key principles behind what types of music will best fulfil the spiritual objectives of our praise.

Being Inspired By Asaph's Spirit

Understanding the implications of a Bible role model

- ❖ I have studied the House of Asaph to trace their story throughout the scriptural record, and to completely familiarise myself with every detail of that story.
- ❖ I have studied the House of Asaph to understand their hymns and the key tenets and guiding standards that made their offerings of praise acceptable before God as a fragrant incense over many generations.
- ❖ I have studied the House of Asaph to understand what their secrets to extraordinary faithfulness were, and how those secrets might be employed in the service of the Truth in our own times.

Being Inspired By Asaph's Spirit

Understanding the implications of a Bible role model

- ❑ I have studied to understand the scriptural basis and the spiritual depth of the hymn book, so that I can sing with deep understanding.
- ❑ I focus on every closing voluntary at the meetings to a) recognise the hymn, b) know before it finishes why the organist has chosen it, c) decide which particular verse they were playing and why.
- ❑ I always seek to find and use hymns that will be special for each occasion, that will capture the spirit of the study, and that will help to exalt the thinking of the ecclesia, to bring us all into the presence of the Father in a final incense of prayer through praise.

The Things That Lie Beyond The Veil

❑ “When someone is deeply and continuously engaged in an atmosphere of divine thoughts, they have neither the time nor inclination to plot mischief or play the fool.

This is the vocation of vacant minds and idle hands, **who know not what it is to enter within the veil**. It is essential to contentment, if not to happiness to be engaged in something for oneself or for an object dearer than self”.

John Thomas