

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Mission: “To Connect People who have a Desire to Become Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ”

4-Step Strategy: *Worship – (2) Study of the Word – (3) Stewardship – (4) Service*

April 2, 2025

Key verse: “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15-NKJV)

To study God's word effectively, approach the Bible with an open mind, prayer, and a desire to understand and apply its teachings.

Study: The devotion of time and attention to acquiring knowledge on a subject.

Why Study the Word of God?

- **To know God:** The Bible is a means by which we come to know God and His character.
- **To be equipped for good works:** Scripture is "God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness".
- **To grow in faith and understanding:** Studying the Bible helps us to strengthen our relationship with the Lord.
- **To discern God's will:** The Bible is a guide for living a life pleasing to God.
- **To be transformed:** The word of God has the power to change our lives.

How to Study the Word of God:

- **Prayer:** Begin your study with prayer, asking God to open your mind and heart to His Word.
- **Bible:** Select a good study Bible and a translation or version that is comfortable for you.
- **Read with an open mind:** Approach the Bible with a willingness to learn and be transformed.
- **Choose a topic relevant to you:** Don't feel pressured to start at the beginning; focus on areas that are meaningful to you.
- **Write down what you learn:** Keep a journal to record your insights and reflections.
- **Listen to the Bible online:** Use online resources to hear the Bible read aloud.
- **Read or share with someone else:** Study with others to encourage and learn from each other.
- **Use a variety of resources:** Explore commentaries, dictionaries, and other study tools to deepen your understanding.
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions:** Seek answers to your questions through prayer, study, and discussion.
- **Apply what you learn:** Put the principles you learn into practice in your daily life.
- **Be patient and persistent:** Studying the Bible is a lifelong journey, so be patient with yourself and keep learning.

Choosing a Bible may seem like a daunting task when you consider the hundreds of options that are available. However, once you identify what your primary use will be, then you can narrow your options. Some Bibles are better for reading and some are better for study. There are Bibles for daily devotions, as well as those specifically for children. Bibles differ in margin size, type size, and notations, and the list goes on.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek and has been translated into English. The differences in translations vary in reading levels and in style.

There are basically 3 types of Bible translations:

1. **Literal** – This is a “word for word” translation. It follows the Hebrew or Greek as closely as possible. Therefore, a literal translation will be the closest English translation of the original text. Drawback: Some of the wording may sound awkward in today’s English
2. **Dynamic-equivalent** – This is a “thought for thought” translation that translates the biblical words and phrases into clear and contemporary English equivalents. The priority is on the intended meaning along with comprehension. These translations are easy to read and faithful to the original message. Drawback: In a few instances the original meaning of the text is not conveyed clearly.
3. **Paraphrase or free translation** – These translations are more concerned with clarity than exact wording. They are easy to read, but can give the impression that the Bible was written in the 20th century. For example in Psalm 119:105 “lamp” in KJV and NAS is translated “flashlight” in TLB. Obviously there were no flashlights a few thousand years ago! Drawback: Compromises on the original meaning of the text.

Some students of the Bible may take advantage of all 3 types of translations. However, it is best to use either a literal or a dynamic-equivalence translation for your actual study. These 2 translations grasp the basic meaning of the passage. The different translations can help to provide unique insights into the text and ideas on how to better communicate the Bible to others. Be careful, however, when using various translations for your personal study that you don’t compromise the original intent and integrity of the scripture when sharing with others.

Key Verses to Consider:

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17:** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- **2 Timothy 2:15:** "Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who rightly divides the word of truth."
- **Hebrews 4:12:** "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
- **Psalms 119:105:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- **Colossians 3:16:** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."