

13 DIFFERENT **BIBLE STUDY STRATEGIES**



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1 THE INDUCTIVE METHOD

- Read a passage and write down answers to the six questions (**Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?**)
- Use these answers to help you form conclusions about this passage (especially why it matters and how you can apply it to everyday life)

2 ANNOTATION

- Use highlighters and pens to take notes on a particular passage
- Designate each color with a particular meaning to help organize your notes (i.e. **Purple:** General notes/questions; **Orange:** What you want to tell God; **Green:** What you want to remind yourself; **Blue:** Mention any areas where the text refers to another verse or story in the Bible; **Pink:** Summarize what the passage was about)
- This strategy works especially well for shorter, more contemplative passages like Psalms

3 TOPICAL STUDY

- Find a Bible topic you want to study (i.e. the topic of salvation, faith, what happens when you die, etc.)
- Find Bible verses that refer to this subject (A quick internet search or concordance search will work)
- Write down any questions you have about the subject and see how the Bible verses answer them
- Summarize what you learned
- Think about how you can apply what you learned to everyday life

4 CHARACTER STUDY

- Choose a Bible character to study
- Find Bible verses that talk about him or her
- Record the biographical details you have of the person's life (be sure to note anything history or culture says about this figure for deeper context)
- Summarize the character and purpose of this person
- Consider how you can learn from this person's experience or think about which of the person's qualities you'd like to adopt

5 KEYWORD STUDY

- Choose a keyword to study (i.e. life, bread, blood, etc.)
- Find every Bible verse that mentions this word
- Note what these verses tell you about this word

6 DEVOTIONAL STUDY

- Study the Bible alongside a devotional
- You may want to pick a devotional that goes over a certain topic or focuses on a specific book of the Bible. One excellent option is studying ***The Desire of Ages***, which focuses on the life and ministry of Christ, alongside the Gospel

7 HISTORY STUDY

- Pick a passage to read
- Use Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias to find some historical and cultural context on this passage (Take special care to look into cultural practices, cultural idioms, any mentioned historical events, genealogies, as well as the names of places and people)
- Summarize what this context teaches you about the verse

8

DRAW THE BIBLE

- Draw the passage as you read
- Note any visual symbols you see in the passage (i.e. a lamb, a tree, a river)
- Use your imagination. Imagine how the figures in this story might have felt
- If you draw a picture for each chapter of a book you can use these images to help you memorize what each chapter is about. This is especially helpful when you're working with long narratives
- Ask yourself how you can apply what you learned

9

THE T.E.X.T. METHOD

- **T: Talk to God.** Pray before reading your Bible passage
- **E: Encounter God and Humanity.** Ask yourself what this passage teaches you about God and humanity
- **X: Examine your Heart.** Contemplate what this passage has taught you about what you need to do to draw closer to Jesus
- **T: Talk to God and others.** Thank God for the truth He's revealed to you and share what you learned with others

10

VERSE MAPPING

- Write down your passage in **three different translations**
- Circle keywords and look up what they mean in their original language
- Look at the context of the passage, specifically noting what parts of the passage might mean and how they might connect to the rest of Scripture
- Write down the passage in your own words
- Give a summary of what you learned and how you might apply the lessons in the passage to your life

11

JESUS IN THE BIBLE

- Look for different types, symbols, Christophanies, and prophecies that represent **Jesus in the Bible**
- Note how these glimpses of Jesus reframe your understanding of a particular verse or deepen your understanding of Christ's character

12

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY

- Find a chronological Bible and start reading it from the beginning
- Take notes as you go along and create a timeline of Bible events
- Note how studying the Bible in order has given you new insights into Scripture

13

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

- Start at the beginning of your Bible in the **book of Genesis**
- Open up a Microsoft Word document and start rewriting scripture in your own words. This can help make scripture easier for you to understand. It can also help you better memorize Bible passages



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