**How to Study Your Bible**

**Choose a Bible**

 Easy to read. Study Bibles can be distracting from the inspired Word.

 Consider everything other than the Scripture itself as commentary

 and not inspired. It may be helpful or it may be misleading.

 New American Standard translation recommended

**Pray** for God’s Holy Spirit to guide your study and lead you to truth.

 Suggested for prayer: Psalms 119, verses 11-12; 15-16; 47-48; 97-98; 129-130; 140

**Read for information** (as if you are reading a newspaper)

 Who wrote it? To whom was it written?

 Why was it written? When was it written?

 Where do the events occur? What does it say—just the facts?

 What is happening—the events?

 How are events occurring; how are people reacting?

 Look for lists, often repeated words, geographical locations.

**Notice Text guides.**

 Don't assume subject changes according to chapter and verse divisions.

 Words in italics indicate that there is no Greek or Hebrew word

 but that text has been added for clarity of understanding.

 Brackets indicate verses not found in the oldest manuscripts.

**Make sure you understand the meaning of words.**

 A Strong’s Concordance can give you numbers of Hebrew/Greek words used.

 A Word Dictionary (keyed to the numbers) will give you the original words and

 their meanings.

 An English dictionary can also give a fuller meaning of words.

 When possible, look for other translations.

**Establish the context.** Refer to the resource books listed below.

 Historical context: when and where

 Cultural context: the society and history of the people involved

 Scriptural context: what is written around the verses being studied

 where else these matters are addressed in Scripture

 (The Strong’s concordance shows every place a word occurs)

**Helpful resource books:**

 Strong’s Concordance

 Strong’s (or Vine’s) Dictionary of Bible Words

 Unger’s Bible Dictionary (a one-volume encyclopedia)

 Will have outlines and overviews of every book as well as

 information about every person and place mentioned in the Bible

 Websites: [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com)

 [www.e-sword.com](http://www.e-sword.com)

 Commentaries (to be used only after the above steps are completed)

 Recommend: James Montgomery Boice,

 The New International Commentary on the Old (or New) Testament,

 William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company

 [www.livingtheology.com](http://www.livingtheology.com) (Leon Combs’ website)