



• GOING DEEPER •

How to read the Bible well....

Week 2: The Process of Systematic Study of God's Word/The Essentiality of Reading

Objective: By the end of these sessions, you will be able to:

- A. Define what Bible study involves
- B. Define the process of systematic study of God's Word.
- C. Understand the importance of knowing how to read.

The Process of Systematic Study of God's Word

Introduction

I. The definition of the Process

A. Bible study is _____ but not _____.

1. The end **product** is:

- a. _____ study of the Scriptures
- b. Study that produces _____

2. The **process** involves a three-step approach

- a. Step ONE: _____
What? What do I see? What does it say?
- b. Step TWO: _____
What does it mean?
- c. Step THREE: _____
So what? How should I respond?

B. Bible study is methodical with a view to becoming receptive and reproductive.

(Before we can make an impact on our culture, the Scripture must make an impact on our lives.)

1. Involvement in the world
2. Isolation from the world

- C. Bible study is methodical with a view to becoming receptive and reproductive by means of first-hand acquaintance with the Word.

Four reasons why first-hand discovery of the Scriptures is essential:

1. It will enable you to _____ for yourself.
(The Bible was not given as a *riddle*, but as a *Revelation*.)
2. It will prepare you to _____ the thoughts of others.
3. It will give you the joy of personal _____ .
4. It will enable you to fall in love with the Author.

II. The Process of Bible Study

A. Step one: **Observation – “What do I see?”**

There are four basic things to notice:

1. Terms
Terms – Terms are more than just words. Terms have specific meaning based on their _____.
2. Structure
 - a. Grammatical structure tells us important information like subject, verb, etc.
 - b. Literary structure reveals clues through recognition of things like questions and answers; cause and effect; etc.
3. Literary form (_____)
Are we looking at poetry, prophecy, history, narrative, etc.?
4. Atmosphere
Tells us the feelings, mood, tone, environment, etc. What was it like to be in the author’s shoes?

B. Step two: **Interpretation – “What does it mean?”**

There are three things that will aid us in the discovery of the meaning of a passage.

1. Bombard the text with _____. The Bible is never embarrassed to be asked honest questions.
2. Look for the answers. These most often will come out of our observation process.
3. Integrate the parts and put them together. Put all the details together into a meaningful whole.

The more time you spend in observation, the less time you will spend in interpretation, and the more faithful you will be to God’s word.

C. Step three: **Application – “How should I respond?”**

1. How should I respond to the truth I’ve just learned? How does it warn me?
2. What is it calling me to _____ – In the way I think, my attitude, my behavior?

The Essentiality of Reading

Introduction

The only difference between any two people is how much they see in the same place. The ability to observe is a developed process.

I. **The definition of the Process**

There is a direct correlation between your _____ in reading and your _____ in Bible study.

II. **Learn to read it as for the first time**

Read the Word in several different versions and languages.

The moment you come to a passage of Scripture and say, “I know this one!” you’re in deep trouble.

III. **Learn to read it to know & love the One who wrote it**