

## BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

### INTRODUCTION LECTURE: WRITTEN FORMAT\_

#### PREPARING FOR A JOURNEY

This is a basic course. Would you like to learn how to study the Bible using the Inductive Bible Study method? Scripture not only encourages us to study as we see through the words of the Apostle Paul. He strongly encouraged his disciple, Timothy, to study. His desire was that Timothy might be presented before the courts of heaven as a workman who is accomplished. Let's take a moment; let's listen to what Paul said:

2 Tim 2:15 My Precious Timothy: Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.

Can you hear the words of Paul? Can you hear him as he wrote to Timothy? As believers in Christ we too are to take this verse to heart and follow the words of Paul as if they were written just for us. Re-read that verse and insert your name as if you were being told by Paul to make every effort to present yourself before God. Notice the urgency in his voice. Paul is saying: Be studious so that if God called you home and you stood before the King of Kings you would not be ashamed of what you had done here on earth. Notice too Paul said it was important so that his disciple could teach the message with accuracy. Do you know Precious Ones that we all are teachers in some form whether it is as a parent, a co-worker or in the capacity of Bible Study Teacher. You know beloved and precious ones we teach by what we say and by what we do. You have heard this saying: actions speak louder than words. Why so you think that's so important?

When Jesus was here on earth He told his disciples, as he was getting ready to ascend: you will be my witnesses. [*Acts 1:8*] Listen to those words again. You will be my witnesses. To be a witness you must know the facts, know the reasons; be accurate. The definition of the word witness is to bear witness to; testify to; give or afford evidence of. The study of God's Word provides you that evidence that you can use to share the gospel and thus be a witness for Jesus. Jesus presents us with divine opportunities. Will you be a witness for Him? Will you be able to present evidence that demands a verdict?

The second reason is if we do not witness for Jesus then each person that comes across our path that has not heard the good news of the gospel will one day enter a Christ-less eternity. Do you recognize what that means? It means forever and ever that person will not see the face of God as love but God as judge. It means total separation from God forever. I don't think I or you can even fathom that concept. Jesus told a parable to help us understand what that means. Turn in your Bible to Luke 16 and read this parable about a rich man and the beggar named Lazarus.

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In this parable Jesus says each has been given a time on earth to live and to come to the realization about God but only *one* in this parable chose the right path, that one was Lazarus. Now, parables do not teach us about doctrine *but* they do teach us about principles. And in this parable we learn a principle about the after life. Once you die, the die is cast (pun intended). The writer of Hebrews cemented this when he wrote to his audience: Precious Ones: people are appointed to die once, and then to face judgment. [Heb 9:27] What kind of judgment will they face? Will they see the face of God as love or the face of God as judge? The Apostle John gives us a glimpse: Precious Ones: The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. [Jn 3:18-19] You know Precious Ones; this statement removes the ideology of our world that we live in. It seems that our world thinks everyone goes to heaven upon dying. Thus our second reason for study is so that we can present the Son of God to those who do not know that they are condemned as the Apostle John says.

There is a third reason. We can only be as competent as our teacher because we will be like Him as we immerse ourselves into His Word and walk with Him; talk with Him; like Mary we sit at his feet and choose the best things just like she did. We shall not be greater but we will be like Him, we will have the mind of Christ. There is a story that was told that when the wife of missionary Adoniram Judson told him that a newspaper article likened him to some of the apostles. Judson replied, "I do not want to be like a Paul or any mere man. I want to be like Christ. I want to follow Him only, copy His teachings, drink in His Spirit, and place my feet in His footprints. Oh, to be more like Christ!" Can we say that? Is that is what we want for our life?

Precious Ones, to achieve all of this we need a plan which will take us from infancy to adulthood, from the nursery to the college, from deadness to life. We need to be immersed in His Word. We need to allow it to permeate each and every fiber of our life. This is what study accomplishes; this is what it brings to fruition so that one day the words of Paul will reverberate in our minds. The goal that Paul wanted was "That we may become mature Christians and that we may fulfill God's will for us." [Col 4:12] Where are you in your growth plan? Is your growth arrested or is it growing? John Underhill wrote: Many of us want to grow. Most of us want to mature. Most of us want to be like Christ. But, many times, we don't know how to get started. That is what this course is all about, Precious Ones, getting started and running the race as we journey together as students of the Word so that we one day will hear these famous words; well done thou good and faithful servant.

Now, here is your first assignment. Please find a journal and record prayerfully where you are spiritually and where you would like to be when you finish this course. Take some time prayerfully. Include some entry verses that specifically speak to your heart about where you are right now. Write out a challenge for yourself that you can look back on, where you can grade yourself as to how you did. And as you record think how you will use this as you use this as His witness.

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Here are three questions:

1. Where are you spiritually?
2. Where do you want to be spiritually?
3. What challenge will you establish for yourself?