

Helpful Hints for Studying

1. **PRAY!!!!!!!** Pray that Holy Spirit may illuminate you as to the message He wants for your class to glean and implement.

2. Begin with any scripture selection. Here's a sample weekly schedule:

Mon: begin by reading and meditating on scripture for week, printing out scripture and highlighting it, jotting down questions as they come to mind; filling in notes, ideas, etc., **Tues:** Go back and re-read the passage again looking for repeated words/phrases, looking up words in the original language, making lists of scriptures that correlate; seek Holy Spirit's aim and objective. Make 20 observations from verses; tell it as a story and/or write it out as a story and check it for accuracy.

Wed. Read any other commentaries that are pertinent to passage-- commentaries are read LAST! AND NOT FIRST--allow the Holy Spirit to teach you the lesson He wants you to learn. *If you are a teacher:* Read Teacher's quarterly (I leave this to last because I want to have Holy Spirit's input not curriculum writers--although they may be the one you use, it may not be where your class is at the moment and the Holy Spirit may have a different lesson for your group)

TEACHERS:

Thurs: Begin by developing the lesson study guide sheet**see below for why a lesson study guide sheet. ** Finish and proofread—edit your lesson sheet and begin by preparing the lesson notes, ideas, additions you want to use

Fri: Take lesson sheet and have it reproduced for class members.

Sat. Set this time aside to pray, meditate on lesson and polish

Why a lesson study guide? The purpose for the Lesson Study Guide sheet is to get the student into the lesson on a daily basis – like a daily quiet time devotional. As they work on their study guide they will see the purpose and begin to have a hunger and a thirst for the Word of Truth. The Study guide sheet is designed for a 5-day week with their 6th day being the day the student reads his/her quarterly, this is their “commentary.” (commentaries are read LAST! AND NOT FIRST. The Holy Spirit will teach them the lesson He wants them to learn. The quarterlies are designed as a guide to a passage selection and are a commentary with thoughts by men/women who have studied the Word **But** God wants each one of us to study His Word on our own. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as our guide and teacher.) All questions should follow the “Bloom's Taxonomy format for question development: factual, thinking; research; opinion; application.

Between Monday and Thursday: Open a Word document on your computer and type up the question sheet with spaces for written answers. Set your margins at .7 so you have more space on left and right margins. (as you write up the lesson sheet, first do a student copy, then do a “save as” and make an answer sheet for yourself at the same time—highlight the answers in a different color). Print out a student copy which you can then take to have printed). Limit the questions to 3 per day and no more than 20. Leave white space between the questions for answers. .

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR DOING WORD STUDIES

<https://net.bible.org/>

www.e-sword.net (this is a free bible study program that you can download)

Spiro Zodhiates has both OT and NT Word Study Dictionaries and also his Key Word Study Bible has some of the same reference work.

DOCTRINALLY SOUND WEBSITES

There are many good websites with clear doctrinally sound sermons and commentaries:

http://www.ccel.org/contrib/exec_outlines/textserm.htm

<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes.htm>

<http://preceptaustin.org/>

<http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/home.html>

<http://www.gospelcom.net/eword/comments/>

<http://www.calvarychapel.com/cheyenne/biblestudy.html>

<http://www.theseason.org/2kings/2kings.htm>

Also, if you do not have a copy of Kay Arthur's "**How to Study the Bible**", I would encourage you to purchase a copy and work through it to see how Kay gives examples and helpful hints to learn how to do an inductive Bible Study step by step. You can purchase one at www.cbd.com

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP ON SCRIPTURE PASSAGES AND GOOD COMMENTARIES:

Glean ideas and other ideas for questions from several sources:

<https://net.bible.org/> www.e-sword.net (this is a free bible study program that you can download)

<http://preceptaustin.org/>

<http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/home.html>

<http://www.gospelcom.net/eword/comments/>

Study guides such as: Irving Jensen Self Study guides or Navigators study guides or Explorer's Bible Study. These can be purchased on-line from many distributors.

Another invaluable book: **Creative Bible Teaching** by Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt. Try to get the one with the copyright date of 1998.

9. LESSON PREPARATION USING STUDY GUIDE WORKSHEET:

1. Study guide worksheet chart includes:

- a. **Passage contents:** Here you want to read the passage through completely and then try to list just the basic “who/what/where/when/” that is in that passage you are studying. This is where you keep my log of ideas/questions/ notes etc. and then put that into a notebook for future reference.
- b. **Notes and questions** is just what it says, any notes, any questions that come to mind
- c. **Subject Sentence.** Is a sentence of 10 words or less that describes the passage under study. It should encapsulate the thoughts and focus that you want to incorporate in particular.
- d. **Divisions** are the sections of the passage. There should be no more than 5, preferably three.
- e. **Principles** are truths that this passage teaches.
- f. **Aim of Passage:** There are two different kinds of aims: one is the aim that God has taught in the passage itself which is the exegetical aim. The second one is the pedagogical aim, which is the aim you want for the students to learn from this passage.

Now take that chart and develop a question sheet using the information from the study guide sheet. See sample sheet attached. Then do a save as and rename it as answer sheet. Do both together and you have a student sheet and a teacher’s sheet. Leave your answer sheet on your computer until you have completed your study and then print out the entire sheet for yourself or leave it on a laptop and take that into class and use that—you decide whatever is easier for you to do. You can design a working copy of a lesson sheet for yourself if you wish to include the ideas from your chart or reprint an extra copy of the chart and fill it out as a teaching tool. Add what you want to use as a “hook” which is usually in your teacher’s manual, and the format you wish to follow

LESSON IMPLEMENTATION:

- A. **Warm-Up—Review**-(this includes what you have been learning that is tied into the lesson focus). “What did we learn last week in our lesson? What principles do you remember that we are focusing on? “ Put your aim on the blackboard if you have one, if not, use newsprint—you can purchase a child’s pad of it quite inexpensively. Refer to this as you begin, throughout the lesson and as you finish up.
- B. **“Hook”** –this is an introductory statement, question, idea to get them thinking and perhaps what they have learned from their past week’s study.
- C. **Materials**-what do you want to use that is “3-D”. You may not have any, but you may want to use such things as newspaper articles, a board drawing, pictures etc Set up a **time frame**, using your lesson outline sheet, program into your planning how much time you wish to spend on each day’s questions – let your question sheet be your facilitator guide—but not the complete teaching tool.
- D. Zero in on the **application questions** nearer to the end and use them to get a discussion going on how they might apply this lesson throughout the week and then the following week, begin your lesson with asking them how they did on the last week’s review
- E. Go over the **next week’s lesson sheet** with them – walk them through any days you think they might have difficulty etc.

This guide should prepare teachers to be adequately prepared to “divide the Word of Truth” accurately. You will learn and your students will learn along with you especially if you hand the study guide sheet out a week ahead of time and ask them to bring them to class.