



PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

**SIMPLE TOOLS TO HELP YOU STUDY YOUR BIBLE
CHAPTER BY CHAPTER, BOOK BY BOOK**

ABC STANDS FOR

ANALYZE, BEST VERSE, CONTRACT.

HERE'S HOW TO DO IT...

ANALYZE

1. Before we can understand what God is saying to us through His Word, we must first know what His Word is saying by making simple observations. The **analyze** portion of this study method is designed to lead you to those observations. As you approach your chapter of Scripture, first pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, teaching you all He wants to teach you (John 14:26).
2. Read the chapter several times for comprehension, then break it into sections that make the most sense to you. These may be different than the sections already in your Bible. That's okay. The example below shows a 27-verse chapter and how it may be divided.
3. Paraphrase or summarize each section using your own words. After you've written your own paraphrase, feel free to consult a trusted commentary (Enduring Word and ESV Study Bible are two free websites/apps with commentary on the entire Bible) or the notes in a study Bible to 'check' your work. Give each section a title that summarizes the main principle or truth of the section.

BEST VERSE

1. After analyzing your chapter, pick your **best verse**. By this point, you probably already have a good idea of which verse that might be. Maybe it's a verse that teaches you an important truth about God. Maybe it's a verse that seems to be speaking to you. Maybe it's really convicting or it's just one that you really like!
2. Write it down and commit it to memory.

CONTRACT

1. The **contract** is the application portion of the study. Good application should answer these three important questions: (1) "What does this passage teach me about God?" (2) "How does this aspect of His character change my view of self?" and (3) "What should I do in response?" (Questions adapted from Jen Wilkin's Women of the Word.)
2. Now that you have a sense of what God is saying to you through His Word, what will you do about it and when? Make your contract as practical and tangible as possible. For example, don't just say, "I'm going to pray more." Include the how and when!



TIPS FOR STUDYING

SLOW DOWN.

This doesn't need to all be done in one sitting. Outline it over the course of a week or so. Maybe read one day, divide into sections another, write a summary or two on the third day, etc. Give yourself time to soak it in. The goal is transformation, not information. Instead of pursuing mere knowledge, pursue God Himself.

START WITH A SHORT BOOK.

Start with a shorter New Testament book, like Ephesians, and then think about moving on to one of the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.

SEEK ACCOUNTABILITY.

Do this with a friend or group for accountability.

ABC STUDY EXAMPLE

MAIN PRINCIPLE

1-3 _____

4-7 _____

8-17 _____

18-27 _____

ANALYZE (PARAPHRASE OR SUMMARIZE THE VERSES)

1-3 _____

4-7 _____

8-17 _____

18-27 _____

BEST VERSE

CONTRACT

4 QUESTIONS

IF INDUCTIVE STUDY ISN'T REALLY YOUR THING, CONSIDER READING A PORTION OF SCRIPTURE AND ASKING QUESTIONS OF IT. WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS IN A JOURNAL OR DIGITALLY.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE:

1. WHAT DO I SEE ABOUT GOD?

- His character/attributes (ex: love, compassion, etc.)
- His conduct (ex: He leads, restores, comforts, prepares us)
- His concerns (ex: what/who He's concerned about)

2. WHAT DO I SEE ABOUT PEOPLE?

- Image-bearers of God
- Fallen/sinful creatures
- Redeemed/loved

3. WHAT DO I SEE ABOUT RELATING TO GOD?

- What to praise Him for
- What sin to confess/repent of
- What promises to believe

4. WHAT DO I SEE ABOUT RELATING TO OTHERS?

- Reconcile with others
- Serve and care for others
- Love one another