

Learning How to Study the Bible



Lessons by Stan Cox

West Side church of Christ

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soundteaching.org

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Why is Bible Study Important?

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

- **The Bible is God’s Will for Man**
 - Not the words of man, but of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:15-16)
 - *“inspiration of God”* (theopneustos) – God breathed
- **The Bible is sufficient to direct our paths in righteousness**
 - The Bible, all the Bible, and only the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119)
- **A love for God’s will is a love for God Himself**
 - The words of Jesus Himself (John 14:15)
 - The words of Paul (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - The words of the Psalmist (119:97-104; 137-144)
- **Note: Bible study helps are beneficial, but there is a difference in studying about the Bible and studying the Bible. Learn the difference and center your study in God’s word!**
 - Any books, websites, videos, articles or other resources should be utilized for the purpose of increasing your understanding of scripture.
 - Keep the word “help” in mind. Resources that help our understanding are good, (Nehemiah 8:5-8). But, it is the word itself that contains the power of God (Romans 1:15-16).

Questions:

1. **What is the consequence of rejecting God’s will for man? (John 12:47-50)**
2. **Is there a danger in being ignorant of God’s will? If so, Why? (Hebrew 5:12-6:6)**
3. **Read through Psalm 119. Choose 2 or 3 verses that indicate the importance and power of God’s words to share with the class.**
4. **What is a disciple? How does a disciple signify love for the teacher?**
5. **What are some books and resources that might replace the Bible itself as authoritative in the minds of men?**

Practical Rules to Understand Scripture

“So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading” (Nehemiah 8:8).

- **Accept the Bible as Inspired from God**
 - As such, it is authoritative and does not contradict itself (2 Samuel 7:28)
- **Always keep the context in mind** *“rightly dividing the word of truth.”*
 - Acknowledge that we are under the authority of the New Covenant (Heb. 1:1-2)
 - Understand the purpose of the Old Testament, and how it should be treated (Galatians 3:21-25)
 - Ask the questions: Who?, What?, Where?, How? and Why?
 - Any text understood independently of its context is mere **pretext!**
- **Accept the original definitions of words rather than present definitions**
 - Bible languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and *Koine* (common) Greek (Dead languages)
- **Learn how to establish authority for our actions as Christians**
 - Approach God’s word as a pattern for behavior (not popular today) (Exodus 25:9)
 - Divine command (James 2:1)
 - Approved Apostolic Examples (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - Divine Implication (Necessary Inference) (Matthew 22:29-32)
- **Differentiate between literal speech and the use of figurative language**
 - The Genesis account is historical, and accepted by Jesus as such (Matthew 19:4)
 - The Book of Revelation uses apocalyptic language (symbols) to describe visions

Quote: “It may be asked, How are we to know, then, when words are to be taken in their simple, original form (i.e., literally), and when they are to be taken in some other peculiar form (i.e., as a figure)? The answer is that, whenever and wherever possible, the words of Scripture are to be understood literally, but when a statement occurs that is contrary to our experience, or known fact, or revealed truth; or seems to be at variance with the general teaching of the Scriptures, then we must expect that some figure is employed. As it is employed only to call our attention to some specially designed emphasis, we are at once bound to diligently examine the figure for the purpose of discovering and learning the truth that is thus emphasized” (E.W. Bullinger, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*)

Questions

1. **What is the difference between remote context and immediate context?**
2. **What is a “dead language”? How does that impact our method of study?**
3. **Are we free to go beyond scripture to authorize our actions? (in effect, to presume upon the silence of God? (Hebrews 7:12-14; Leviticus 10:1-2)**

Bible Study Methods – Part I

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV).

- **Devotional Studies**
 - A common method of study. (Many books in bookstores are devotional).
 - Typical – Scripture reading, poem or short story, prayer list, thought of the day. (Used to increase love, loyalty or enthusiasm for God)
 - **Positive aspects** – Any study that creates enthusiasm, love and loyalty is beneficial to the child of God. The psalms are good for this. (Psalm 19:1-4; 139:1-14). **Limitations** – If effort is not made to increase knowledge (meat), increased zeal alone is insufficient. (Romans 10:1-3)
- **Historical & Geographical Studies**
 - Serve to establish context for an understanding of Bible concepts (Where, when)
 - Evidentiary in nature. Secular corroboration of Bible events, people or places are helpful in building faith.
 - **Limitations** – Ancillary to the principal purpose of saving souls. A person can be limited in his historical and geographical knowledge, and still respond to the teaching of the gospel. (Danger in becoming preoccupied, and neglecting more directly impactful study).
- **Character Studies**
 - Enlightens by example, the type of people God approves of, and also those He does not.
 - Good examples can be followed. (Hebrews 11-12:2). From bad examples we learn what NOT to do. (cf. Acts 5:5,11)
- **Topical Studies**
 - Taking a particular topic, (Love, Grace, Obedience, etc.) and finding as many passages possible which pertain to that topic. In this way, an understanding of God’s will regarding the topic may be understood.
 - **Advantages:** Many helps. Fairly simple in approach. Beneficial, especially when the topic is one of importance.
 - **Potential problems:** The possibility of removing passages from context. Also, missing some important passage that may relate to the topic.

Exercise to complete and bring with you to the class for this lesson.

- Read about Abraham’s nephew Lot in Genesis 13:1-13; and chapter 19. Name and document a negative characteristic or mistake, and a positive characteristic or laudable accomplishment. Be prepared to share it with the class as time permits.

Bible Study Methods – Part 2

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV).

- **Word Studies**

- Defining Bible words to gain an understanding of what the Bible teaches.
- There are numerous helps that give untrained students access to the meaning of words in the original language. (**Examples:** *Strong’s Concordance, Thayer’s Lexicon, Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*).
- Context is a very important when determining the meaning of words.
- This is a very important way of studying the Bible. It must be done with care, as an abuse of the methodology can lead to religious error. (Col. 2:8; 2 Tim. 2:14)

- **Textual Studies**

- Perhaps the most fruitful way of studying the Bible, as it naturally maintains the context, helping to understand the meaning.
- **Simple process.** Take a text, take into consideration the immediate to remote contexts, and determine the exact purpose and meaning of the text.
- Dividing the text into books, chapters, paragraphs is a natural way to study textual studies. (*“who, what, where, when, why”* works well here).
- Always remember that each book or letter was written for at a specific time and a specific purpose. It was not written with chapters and verses. It is important to have an overall understanding of the text, rather than piecemeal.

- **Doctrinal Studies**

- Important in protecting self and others against false teaching.
- The ability to recognize (Ephesians 4:14-15), and refute error (Jude 3) is of utmost importance because of the ubiquity of it (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
- Some wide reaching religious error includes: paganism, gnosticism, Catholic doctrines, faith only, false worship, denominationalism, premillennialism, etc.
- Some modern doctrines that have impacted God’s people: instrumental music, human institutions, Divorce error, fellowship issues, doctrine of annihilation.
- Elders (and we) need the ability to *“convict those who contradict”* (Titus 1:9).

Exercise to complete and bring with you to the class for this lesson.

- Take a text and outline it, noting the main points being made in that text.
- Find a corroborating verse from another place in the Bible that supports each point.
- Example texts you can use: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Ephesians 2:11-22; Hebrews 2:1-4
- Or, feel free to choose a text of your own to do the exercise.

The Use of Bible Helps – Part I (Book List)

“Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.” (2 Timothy 4:13).

- **A word of Caution – Works of men are subject to error**
 - This is especially important to note with commentaries and doctrinal books
 - Always look for biases and agendas when utilizing such resources
- **Reference Work recommendations**
 - Strong’s Concordance (Free online) \$27 @ Amazon
 - Thayer’s Greek Lexicon (Free online) \$22 @ Amazon
 - Vine’s Expository Dictionary (Free online) \$26 @ Amazon
 - Bible Atlas (Maps/Geography/Culture) \$20-40 @ Amazon
 - Bible Dictionary (People/Places/Objects/Events) \$15-20 @ Amazon
 - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (Free online) Available used
 - Nave’s Topical Bible (Free online) \$21 @ Amazon
- **Commentary recommendations (Commentaries by brethren to be preferred)**
 - Gospel Advocate – New Testament (14 volume set), \$230 @ CEI
 - Truth Commentaries – Old & New (25 volumes) ebooks (NT \$137/OT & NT \$226)
 - Bible Study Textbook Series – (59 Volumes) (Free online in PDF format)
 - Truth for Today Commentaries – \$30 per volume @ CEI
 - The People’s New Testament, B.W. Johnson – (Free online) \$15 @ Amazon
 - Single commentaries – Homer Hailey (Numerous volumes), R. L. Whiteside (Romans), J.W. McGarvey (Acts)
- **Debate Books (Here are a few examples) Typically \$10-\$25 @ CEI**
 - Curtis W. Porter (Various Debates)
 - Roy Cogdill – Guy Woods (Institutionalism)
 - Reeves – Neubauer (AD 70) (Note: Bruce Reeves has several debate books)
- **Topical/Doctrinal Works (Here are a few examples)**
 - From Creation to Eternity (Homer Hailey) \$ @ CEI
 - Neo-Calvinism in the Church of Christ (Tom Roberts) \$ @ CEI
 - Thinking About AD 70 (Kyle Pope) \$20 @ CEI
 - The Evolution Delusion (Dr. Bo Kirkwood) \$15 @CEI
 - Establishing and Applying Bible Authority (Mark Mayberry) \$11 @CEI
 - Build Strong Homes (Edited by Mike Willis) \$20 @ CEI

List of Bookstores

<http://amazon.com>

<http://truthbooks.com>

<http://onestone.com>

<https://bookstore.floridacollege.edu>

Amazon Bookstore

CEI Bookstore

One Stone Bookstore

Florida College Bookstore

The Use of Bible Helps – Part 2 (Online & Apps)

- **Bible Study Programs**
 - **Logos** (Gold Standard) (online, on computer, mobile app)
 - logos.com (Basic edition free) packages range from \$300-10,000.
 - **Olive Tree** (computer, mobile app)
 - olivetree.com (Program free, several free Bibles and resources)
 - Other Bibles and Study resources can be purchased (various prices)
 - **E-Sword** (Many free resources.) (on computer, tablet, mobile app)
 - e-sword.net (Program, and many resources are free).
 - Bibles I use (ASV, ESV, KJV, YLT) all free
 - References (Strong, Thayer, Vine, ISBE, Nave, Smith) all free
 - Commentaries (Barnes, Adam Clarke, Jamieson-Fausett-Brown, B.W. Johnson) all free
 - **Blue Letter Bible** (Great Resource, **My favorite**) (online, mobile app)
 - blueletterbible.org
 - (All Bibles and resources available for free, with internet access).
 - Great interface that is almost identical online, and in mobile app.
 - Strong, Thayer & Vine all readily available for Bible Study
 - Other resources available. Scripture Markup online may be helpful.
- **Search Engine (seekye1st.net)**
 - Search engine indexed to numerous websites and resources authored by Christians
- **Other Online Resources**
 - Bible Study Textbooks (PDF) (Commentaries, Christian Church)
 - (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/2010/09/open-access-bible-study-textbook-series.html>)
 - McGarvey Commentary on Acts (<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/mcgarvey/acts.html>)
 - B.W. Johnson 1 Volume NT Commentary (https://ccel.org/ccel/johnson_bw/pnt/pnt)
 - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (<https://www.internationalstandardbible.com>)
 - Biblical Words Pronunciation Page – (<https://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>)
- **Online Magazines (Articles on numerous Bible topics and Texts)**
 - Watchman Magazine (<http://watchmanmag.com>)
 - Truth Magazine (<https://www.truthmagazine.com/archives-for-truth-magazine>)
 - Volumes from 1956 to 2018 are free to read
 - Plain Talk (Robert Turner) (https://wordsfityspoken.org/plain_talk)
 - Expository Files (Warren Berkley, Jon Quinn) (<https://www.bible.ca/ef>)
- **Evidence Studies (Evolution, Archaeology)**
 - Answers in Genesis – Note: Denominational (<https://answersingenesis.org>)
 - Apologetics Press – Note: Denominational (<https://apologeticspress.org>)
 - Ferrell Jenkins Biblical Studies Page (<https://biblicalstudies.info>)
 - Links to various sites emphasizing archaeology, photographs of Biblical sites, and Biblical history and culture. (Note: Many of the links are sectarian or secular).

Independent Bible Study – 1 (Instructions)

This exercise is designed to accomplish several objectives:

- Develop Bible Study skills; Supply tools needed to develop spiritual maturity; Encourage self-reliance in Bible Study; Cover some of the important basics a child of God needs to know.

To complete each study sheet the following should be done:

1. First, read each verse two or three times. Read surrounding verses to get the context of the material.
2. Consult a Bible dictionary, or others about any words or phrases that are not clearly understood.
3. Determine the general subject of the lesson. When this is determined, pencil the general subject at the top of the page.
4. One verse at a time, write a summary of what it teaches, keeping in mind the subject thread.
5. Answer the two questions.
 - a. *The answer to question one should be specific and practical. Do not think merely of the goal, but rather how to attain the goal.*
 - b. *The answer to question two should also be specific. Not a general, "It would help me to be a better Christian." In what way would it impact your life. Specifically, what would be better if you did what the texts taught.*
6. Finally, go back to the working title, and modify it, making the Subject more specific, to best describe the teaching of the three verses.

Example Lesson for illustration purposes

Title: *The Need for Study*

Scriptures

Hebrews 5:12—6:3

- *Milk—The first principles of the gospel*
- *Solid Food—The more difficult parts of the gospel (reason of use)*
- *Danger of apostasy, if continued study is not present*
- *I need to Study!*

1 Peter 2:2-3

- *Milk—The first principles of the gospel*
- *Desire—As a newborn babe*
- *This desire is a result of the realization of God's grace. In effect, since He has done so much for me, should I not desire to please Him, by studying His will for man?*

2 Timothy 2:15

- *King James — "Study" ; New King James — "Be Diligent"*
- *Must rightly divide the word of truth in order to not be ashamed!*
- *It takes effort!*

Questions

- **How can I incorporate the lessons I have learned from these passages into my daily life?**
 - *Set aside a time for reading (Same time every day, for consistency)*
 - *Ask somebody, if I have a question (Somebody that I trust, who has good Bible knowledge).*
 - *To begin, read a chapter of Mark every day.*
- **How will my applying the teaching in these lessons improve my spiritual life?**
 - *As I progress to solid food, I will be better able to know what is right and wrong*
 - *If I am mature, I will be able to protect myself better than if I am helpless*

Independent Bible Study - 1

Subject: _____

Scriptures

1 Timothy 2:1-7

James 5:13-18

Hosea 14:1-2

Questions

How can I incorporate the lessons I have learned from these passages into my daily life?

How will my applying the teaching in these lessons improve my spiritual life?

Independent Bible Study - 2

Subject: _____

Scriptures

Romans 13:1-7

1 Peter 2:13-16

Matthew 22:16-22

Questions

How can I incorporate the lessons I have learned from these passages into my daily life?

How will my applying the teaching in these lessons improve my spiritual life?

Using the Sound Teaching Website as a Resource

- **The soundteaching.org website is intended to be a “teaching” site. As such, care has been taken to make resources as available and easily accessible as possible.**
 - The menu system ensures that every page of the site is reachable with a maximum of two clicks.
 - Graphics are minimal to ensure fast loading times.
 - Organization takes precedence over style.
- **Menu Features**
 - Home button returns you to the front page, with the most recent additions to the site.
 - Events button supplies information regarding upcoming gospel meetings and congregational singings.
 - Sermon archives gives video, audio and PPT’s of all sermons preached at West Side from 2006 to the present.
 - Online Bible Study consists mainly of the Sunday morning classes for the last 10 years or so, with audio as well as curriculum. (Also, video for the last couple of years). The most recent classes are at the top.
 - Contact us Page is self-explanatory, as is our Schedule of Services
 - The Members area is password protected, except for the “Online Resources for Bible Class teachers”. This page has links and resources especially helpful for the younger classes.
 - The Men’s Meetings page & Men’s Studies page have been updated, and are current. (I’m sorry I got a bit behind). If you need the passwords, please ask me.
- **Other Features**
 - Home page always features the most recent articles and sermons.
 - Category links allows for the identification of resources on specific topics. (More effective in this regard would be the search bar).
 - Note: “Subject Index” category serves as a counter regarding the number of articles and sermons are found on the site. (Presently at 3425).
 - It is possible to subscribe to the email list, to receive notices of new materials.
 - There is a place to “Like” our Facebook page.
 - The Sound Teaching Archives serve to organize materials by month and year.
 - Links to other pages on the internet include: Sermon audio; Church pages; Commentaries; Evidences; Pages from individual Christians (Preachers) who have their own study materials available; Magazine articles; Online study courses; Religious Supplies; Specialty searches; and Study resources.
- **Your Suggestions? Or help?**
 - If you have any suggestions on how to make soundteaching.org a more effective teaching site for our congregation, please let me know.
 - Would you be willing to help? Perhaps use your skill to enlarge and maintain the “members area” of the website? Let me know!

Preparing Sermons and Class Materials

- **Suggestions for both sermon and class preparation**
 - The emphasis must always be on the word of God, (2 Timothy 2:15). (Not necessarily present in commercially prepared material).
 - The use of illustrations should be chosen carefully to adorn the word. (Ex: Jesus' parables were always designed to emphasize a spiritual truth).
 - Take advantage of study helps. (But remember, these are the works of men, and are not authoritative). (cf. Acts 2:42)
 - Make application. Every lesson should be prepared with the purpose of convicting, improving or strengthening the audience. (Proverbs 22:17)
- **Suggestions for sermon preparation**
 - Determine the type of sermon to be preached: Exegetical, Topical, Doctrinal
 - Remember, context, context, context! (Seek to explain each passage in context, not just quote proof texts. It makes for a much deeper and helpful study.
 - Logical, well thought out and prepared lessons are most beneficial. (Handouts and PPT's can be helpful as well).
 - Consider a three point outline to begin: see appended handout for examples.
- **Suggestions for class preparation**
 - The development of a curriculum is important
 - Ensures a well rounded knowledge, without gaps.
 - Note: As we cover the "history" of the Bible, applications must be made.
 - Never forget that the intent of the Bible is to redeem and equip mankind.
 - Doctrine is a part of this, (to avoid false teaching and expose error).
 - Use age appropriate projects and materials, but remember they are to adorn the word and establish a truth that you want the student to remember. (It is Bible study, not arts and crafts).
 - High School and adults can benefit from printed material, supplements, etc.
 - The singing of songs is especially important for younger students. (Prayer is important, not only as an example, but to petition God's blessings on the class).
 - Organization is important in a Bible class setting (especially on the quarter system)
 - What do you want to accomplish in the class? What lesson do you want to apply? How long will you give to each part of the class period? What questions do you want to ask?
 - Do not prepare too much material to be digested in a single setting.
- **Discussion**
 - Questions regarding either sermon preparation or class preparation.
 - A discussion of resources that can be used for class preparation.
 - Advice from qualified and experienced teachers and preachers.

(Lesson 11) Assignment - Prepare a Bible Class

Prepare a Bible class lesson

(First, determine the age of the class, for which you are preparing the lesson).

1. Choose topic, text, character or event in scripture
 2. Present a statement of intent: What is it you want the student to get out of the lesson. Why are you presenting it?
 3. Establish at least 3 major points, with accompanying scripture. (Not only in major text, but other passages)
 4. Explain an age appropriate task, craft, visual aid and establish how it will benefit the child (for primary classes)
 5. Create a list of 3-5 questions for older child/adult class that will help to drive home the lessons.
 6. If older class, prepare one discussion question. (Or, if you like for the younger class as well).
- In the class, I will be asking for topics, statements of intent, and 3 major points. This will give us discussion fodder, to help us all improve.
 - Additionally, I am interested in hearing question structure, and visual aids, projects.
 - Among the most important parts of an adult class is the discussion questions (to make applications, present theoretical situations, etc).

(Lesson 12) Assignment – Prepare a Sermon

Prepare a Sermon

1. Text

- Text

Supplements:

The following supplements will help you in your understanding of scripture. Using faithful men by reading, listening or watching sermons and teaching supplies insight into God's word. Other voices can make a great deal of difference in helping us understand scripture. Establishing good habits in Bible reading, marking your Bible, etc., are also beneficial.

Podcasts and Sermons Online

- **Podcasts** – (Search for the Podcasts Online in your software. Note: I don't have a large sampling. If you know of others teaching truth, share with the class).
 - **Seasonal Preaching** (Jeremiah Cox – Active, about 230 sermons at present)
 - **Pondering Scripture** (Jeremiah Cox – Archived... Note: Good study on the book of James)
 - **Excel Still More** (Kris Emerson – Active, devotional)
 - **El Bethel Church of Christ** (Donnie Rader – Active, over 400 sermons at present)
- **Sermon Videos** – (These are found on Youtube. Again, if you have other examples of good preaching on video, please share with the class).
 - **Parkview church of Christ (Jerry Fite)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/norrislong>
 - **84th Street church of Christ, Oklahoma City (Harry Osborne & Jeremiah Cox)**
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSM_eeZIXIsweps8OwdoWuw
 - **Southside church of Christ, Blue Springs, MO (Brett Hogland & J.R. Bronger)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkU4Xhel0pWenQqVk-cNIDA>
 - **John Robertson (Preacher at Floral Heights in Wichita Falls). Textual Studies**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJSOT-F8d0FGcUiCiZe-G8w>
 - **Mark Mayberry (Preacher at the Adoue St. congregation in Alvin, TX)**
 - <https://www.markmayberry.net>
- **Sermon Audio** (Most congregations have some sermons available online in audio form. Following are a few good examples of what is available).
 - **Loop 287 church, Lufkin, TX (Kyle Campbell)**
 - <https://lawofliberty.com/sermons-church-lufkin-tx>
 - **Mount Baker church in Bellingham, Washington (Joe Price) All sermons since 2007**
 - http://www.bibleanswer.com/Sermon_Audio_Files.htm

How to Mark Your Bible

- **Lindale church of Christ, Color marking program (Kris Emerson)**
 - Extensive program with multiple videos (16) to take you step by step through the system
 - Downloadable bookmarks, class material, and pre-marked PDF's of various books as samples
 - Utilizes color pencils to underline, box, or circle key words and concepts in scripture to help identify themes and assist in recall of important passages.
 - <https://www.lindalechurchofchrist.com/series-option2/bible-marking>
- **Mark Your Bibles (Edward A. Brouillette and Jeff Asher)**
 - Doctrinally oriented, 15 threads designed to assist in personal work efforts.
 - <https://www.padfield.com/acrobat/asher/mark-your-bible.pdf>

Daily Bible Reading Schedules

- **(90 days) Christian Standard Bible Reading Plan**
 - <https://csbible.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CSB90-DayReadingPlan.pdf>
- **(1 Year) Wholesome Words Daily Bible Reading Schedule**
 - <https://www.wholesomewords.org/family/bibleread/truth.pdf>
- **(5 Day/1 Year) Five Day Bible Reading (Mark Roberts)**
 - <https://www.fivedaybiblereading.com>
 - Each year the program is recalibrated – follows a “chronological” schedule
 - Mark supplies a companion to the reading for deeper study for \$4
- **Read the New Testament in a month**
 - Divide the pages of your New Testament by 30
 - Read the appropriate number of pages each day.
 - When finished consider doing it again... and again... and again!

Bible Journaling

- One individual defines Bible journaling in this way: “Bible journaling is a creative devotional practice. Specifically, it’s the practice of responding to the Biblical text in a creative way in the pages of your Bible.”
- Consider the following article that is a short “how to” guide
 - <https://saralaughed.com/how-to-start-bible-journaling-for-beginners>
- Several journaling Bibles (with wide margins for notes, art, emphasis) are available. Here are a couple of examples
 - NKJV, Journal the Word Bible (Floral Hardback for \$30 on Amazon)
 - NKJV Bible Journals (Individual paperback volumes for each Bible book. Can be purchased as separate volumes or in boxed sets. Example: Gospels and Acts).
 - ESV Single Column Journaling Bible (Black Hardback for \$28 on Amazon).
- Another good practice is to buy a blank journal or notebook, and handwrite the entire text of a Bible book. This reading/writing process increases comprehension and familiarity with the Bible text.

Suggestions?

- Have you developed any habits or Bible study practices that might be beneficial to the class? Please write them down here, and share it with us when appropriate!

Supplements: Example Sermon Outlines:

(Note: A good practice when preaching: Tell them what you are going to tell them, Tell them, then Tell them what you told them)

Sample Topical Outline:

Singing in Worship to God

Introduction: God has specified the singing of Hymns as an aspect of our worship to God.

Discussion:

- **The type of songs to be sung are Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs (Ephesians 5:19)**
 - Supporting points could include definitions, examples of such songs, and cautions about doctrinal error and departures from the types of songs required.
- **Singing serves to Encourage and Teach (if it is engaged in with a proper spirit) (Colossians 3:16-17)**
 - Teach and admonish (the Colossians text)
 - Encouragement (James 5:13)
- **Singing can be done in the worship assembly and also out of the assembly (cf. Acts 16:25)**
 - Discuss the benefits of singing in worship (mutual edification), and outside of worship (encouragement).
 - Emphasize that this is worship to God, that pleases Him

Conclusion: A concise summary of what was discussed, and a final exhortation. God requires us to worship Him. It benefits us and pleases Him.

Sample Exegetical Outline: (Colossians 2 & 3)

Choosing Christ

Introduction: In chapters 2 and 3, Paul contrasts faith in, and service to Christ to things that the world supplies. Christ is better than...

- **The Philosophy of men (2:1-10)**
 - Note, an exegesis of the text requires an explanation of the major points being made.
 - Other passages can be used to establish these truths (a Topical Bible is good for this, if you are looking for a corroborating text).
- **The regulations, commandments and doctrines of men (2:11-23)**
 - This would include man made traditions
 - It would include the efforts of the Judaizers to bind the law upon the Gentiles
- **The carnality of the worldly (3:1-11)**
 - Sexual Immorality, profanity, covetousness, anger, etc.
 - Many corroborating passages can be included, such as Romans 1:28-32 & Galatians 5:19-21

Conclusion: A great contrast is made as Paul emphasizes the proper character of the Christian (**3:12-17**)