

8. It's Not What You Know ...

Introduction

You know the saying ... ***“It's Not What You Know, It's What You Do with What You Know!”*** There is much wisdom in that statement, for unless we apply what we learn, we are not much better off than before we learned it! ***And having learned the Principles and Method of Bible Study, it is now time to utilize them!*** There are many ways that Bible Study can be applied. These include:

Personal Study

Every Christian should not only have a Personal Bible *Reading* program, but also a Personal Bible *Study* regimen. There is nothing quite like diving into the Scripture for yourself, researching God's Truths in His Word and discovering His Will for your life! Too many Christians depend solely on a teacher to ***“feed”*** them God's Word, limiting their intake of Scripture. This can stunt spiritual growth and fruitfulness! So consider the following in order to make *Personal Bible Study* a part of your spiritual regimen!

- ▶ Commit yourself to a *Personal Study* of God's Word.
- ▶ Set a *Goal* to study a selected Book, Character or Topic.
- ▶ Determine a *Place* and *Time* for your Personal Bible Study.
- ▶ Keep a *Journal* of your study for future reference as well as to share with others.

Group Study

One of the best ways to study the Bible is with others. There are many benefits to this, some of which are listed below.

- ▶ Studying the Bible with others can make Bible Study more ***interesting***.
- ▶ Studying the Bible in a Group can keep us more ***motivated*** than if done alone.
- ▶ Group Bible Study ***enhances*** our Observations, Interpretations and Applications as we *share* and learn from one another.
- ▶ Studying with others offers greater ***protection*** from ***erroneous Interpretations***.
- ▶ Studying the Bible with others keeps us ***accountable*** to Apply what we learn.

When forming a Bible Study Group, make sure everyone has learned to implement the Method and Principles for Bible Study. ***Join with Christians with whom you are willing to be accountable toward, and whom you are willing to hold accountable.*** Everyone must be willing to be Fair, Objective and Humble - willing to receive correction as well as give it. They must be willing to *discuss, not argue*, the Truths of Scripture.

Together, decide the Type of Study to be done: Topical, Character or Book. Then set a Time and Place, and enjoy one another's fellowship and contribution!

Actively Listen to Lectures and Sermons

Use the Bible Study Principles and Method *while listening to Lectures and Sermons*. By doing this, you will not only confirm (*or deny*) what you are learning, but also gain more from the passage. (*Acts 17:11*)

- ▶ Listening Actively keeps your mind *alert* to what the speaker is saying.
- ▶ Listening Actively results in *a better understanding* of the Bible passage compared to listening Passively.

Train Others to Study God's Word

Consider teaching others how to Study the Bible. As more Christians learn to study the Word for themselves, they will experience the rewards of discovering God's Truths and Will for their lives! And *you* will have played an important part in their spiritual growth! Simply use this studybook and take them through it step by step. By training a small group, you will also see the same benefits listed in the *Group Bible Study* section above.

- ▶ Teaching others to study the Bible helps you to become *a better Bible Student* as you *relearn* the Principles and Method of Bible each time you teach it!
- ▶ Teaching others helps to *fulfill the Great Commission* by getting them in the Word.

Creating Bible Lessons

If you are asked to teach from the Bible, *the Bible Study Principles and Method can be used to develop lessons to share with others*. The process of explaining Scripture directly from the Bible text is called *Expository Bible Teaching*. Two methods are described below: *Verse by Verse* and *Thematic*.

There is some disagreement on which form of Expository Teaching is better. There are supporters on both sides, some *adamant* in their belief. But which ever form you adopt, *the primary goal of Expository Teaching is to explain the meaning and the application of the Word of God in such a clear, accurate and relevant manner as to cause the hearer to believe and obey its Truth. Anything short of this , no matter the form utilized, is unacceptable.*

No matter the Method used, God's main concern is that we Trust Him, and utilize all that we have learned to serve Him. As we come to the end of this Studybook, remember ...

*"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded;
and from the one who has been entrusted with much,
much more will be asked."*

Luke 12:48b

Excellent Resource:

"How to Prepare Bible Messages" by James Braga

Copy the Worksheets in the back and start the exciting journey of discovering hidden treasures from God's Word! Make it a lifelong habit!

Verse by Verse Expository Lessons

Verse by Verse Lessons *explain each verse in sequence.* This ensures a thorough explanation of the individual verses as well as the whole of Scripture.

1. *Prayerfully* determine your lesson *Subject*.
2. Decide which *Type of Study [Book, Character or Topical]* is best for this *Subject*.
3. Do a *thorough* study of the *Subject* using the *Principles of Bible Study*.
4. Keep *accurate notes* of all your *Observations, Interpretations and Applications*.
5. Arrange your notes (*Observations O Interpretations O Applications*) so that you can share them in a *clear and logical* manner.
6. When sharing your Lesson, explain the verses *in succession* by sharing your *Interpretations and Applications*. Be careful of sharing too much and *boring* your listeners!
7. Include relevant *illustrations or anecdotes* to *enlighten* your listeners to the *Truths* of the text.

Note: When teaching God's Word, make sure you are filled with the Spirit of God. Be enthusiastic! **One of the worst things you as a Bible Teacher can do is make the Bible boring!** [*Enthusiasm comes the Greek words for in (en) and God (Theos). Those who are "in God" will be **Enthusiastic!**]*

Example of a Verse by Verse Lesson

Mark 4:35-41

- 35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."**
- 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.**
- 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.**
- 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"**
- 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.**
- 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**

Verse by Verse Lesson

verse 35

This passage begins at the close of an exhausting day of ministry, with Jesus and His disciples in a boat just off the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Because of the crowds, He has been forced to teach from the deck of the boat (4:1), and now, at the end of the day, He gives instructions to His disciples that, instead of going to the shore where the crowds were, they should go to the other side of the lake, a voyage of about 8 miles. Mark notes that evening had come, and perhaps before them lies the soft glow of the sky from the sun which has dropped below the horizon. In a few minutes there will be nothing before them but a foreboding darkness, and the sounds of lapping waves on the bow of the boat. They are heading into this darkness toward the opposite bank of the lake. And in this uncertain environment is heard the confident instruction of our Lord, "Let us go over to the other side."

verse 36

In verse 36, we read an interesting phrase. "They took Him along in the boat". There is a sense here of the disciples' confidence. They are now in charge. They are taking the lead. Why? Because at least four of them are in their element. They are literally in their "own back yard" having grown up as fishermen on this very Lake! Now it's their turn to show Jesus what they can do! Maybe they had even suggested that He relax and get much needed sleep as they took care of things. Little did they know what was about to transpire. There were no radars or weather satellites back then. But they should have known by experience the unpredictableness of the Lake and the dangers that can come up, especially during a night crossing. Perhaps their experience and confidence caused them to drop their faith in God and put it in their own skills. That's a recipe for trouble!

Thematic Expository Lessons

Thematic Lessons seek to organize Individual Truths in a Passage around a central Theme. These **Truths** are stated in such a way as to *support* the central Theme of the Passage, and are organized in a clear and logical manner.

1. *Prayerfully* determine your *Lesson Subject*.
2. Decide which *Type of Study [Book, Character or Topical]* is best for this subject.
3. Do a thorough Study of the Subject using the Principles of Bible Study.
4. Keep *accurate notes* of all your Observations, Interpretations and Applications.
5. Determine the *Main Theme* of the Scripture Passage being studied.
6. Determine the *Truths* found in the Passage *that support the Theme* and which are supported by your Observations and Interpretations.
7. Arrange these *Truths* in a clear and logical manner.
8. Present your Lesson by *explaining these Truths* by your Interpretations.
9. Include *illustrations* or *anecdotes* that help make the Truths of Scripture *relevant* to your students.
10. Share the *practical Applications and Principles* that apply to each Truth.

Example of a Thematic Lesson

Mark 4:35-41

- 35 **That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."**
- 36 **Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.**
- 37 **A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.**
- 38 **Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"**
- 39 **He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.**
- 40 **He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**

Theme: Developing Faith

The first Principle we learn from this Passage is that ...

1. Developing Faith Requires an Encounter with Our Failures. (4:36-38)

In God's economy, things that we consider ourselves strong or experts in often turn out to be the opposite! Here, in this Passage, the disciples are given an opportunity to display their expertise as fishermen on the very Lake they grew up sailing and fishing on. They were literally in their "own back yard"! Never mind that evening had come, and the safe light of the sun was now being engulfed by a foreboding darkness hiding the eight miles of water separating Jesus and the disciples from the opposite bank. The disciples were in their element. By practice, they knew what they were doing, and for once, they didn't need Jesus' care. Perhaps in their confidence, they had suggested to Jesus to take it easy, to relax, to get some sleep. No problem, they had everything under control! No one can accuse God of not having a sense of humor, for when you think you're finally on solid ground, it caves in on you! Why? In order to show us that the only solid ground is Jesus Christ! The disciples' failure will become their strength!

2. Developing Faith Requires an Encounter with "Storms" We Cannot Control. (4:37-39)
3. Developing Faith Requires an Encounter with the One Who Controls the "Storms". (4:39)

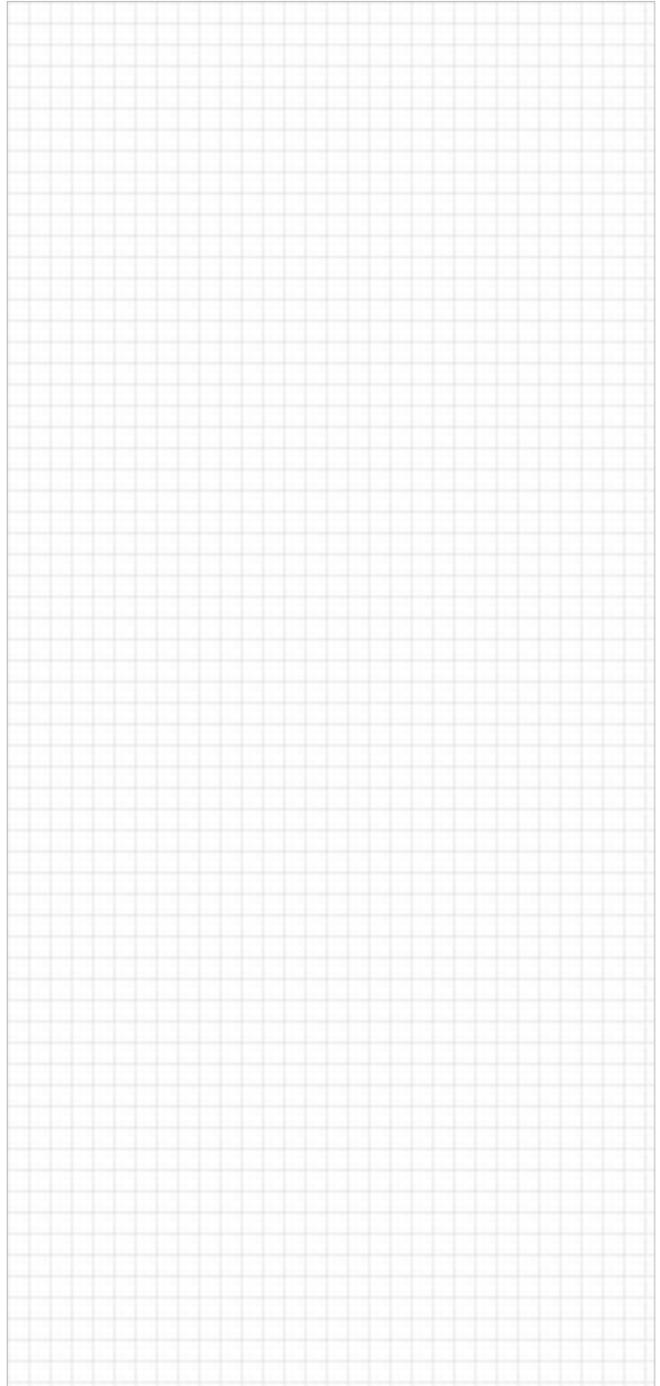
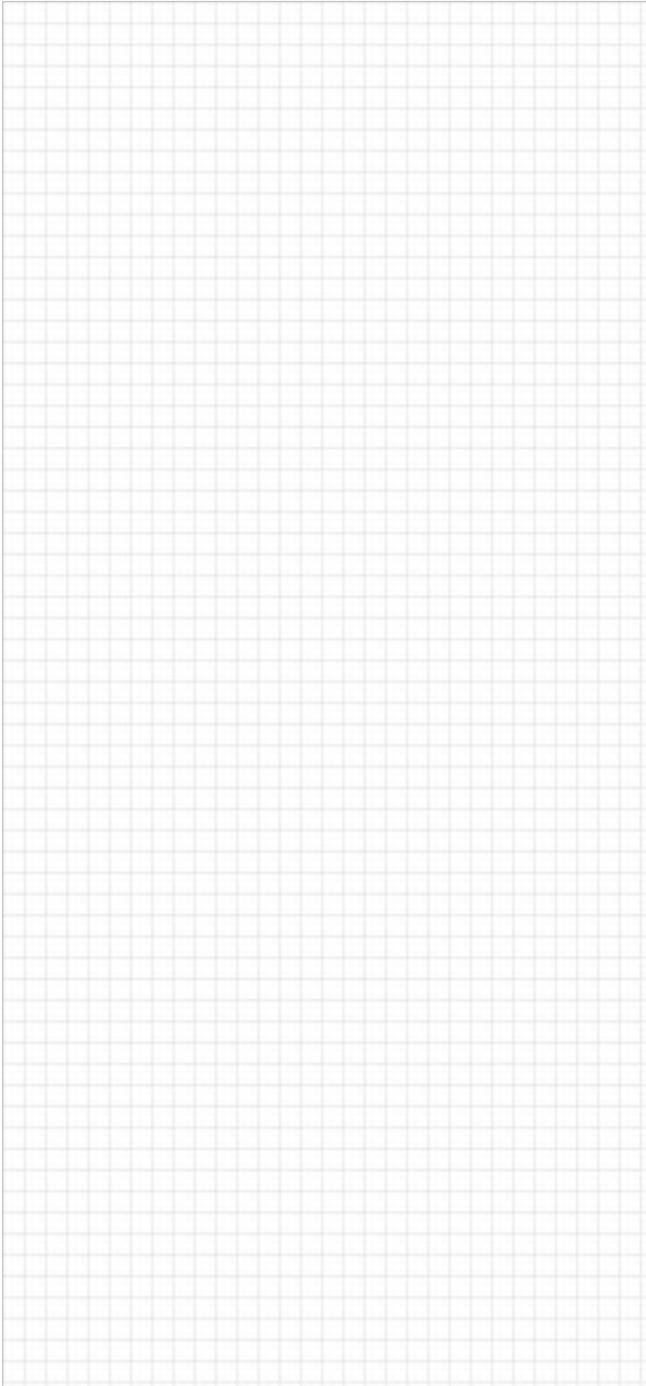
Bible Study Worksheet

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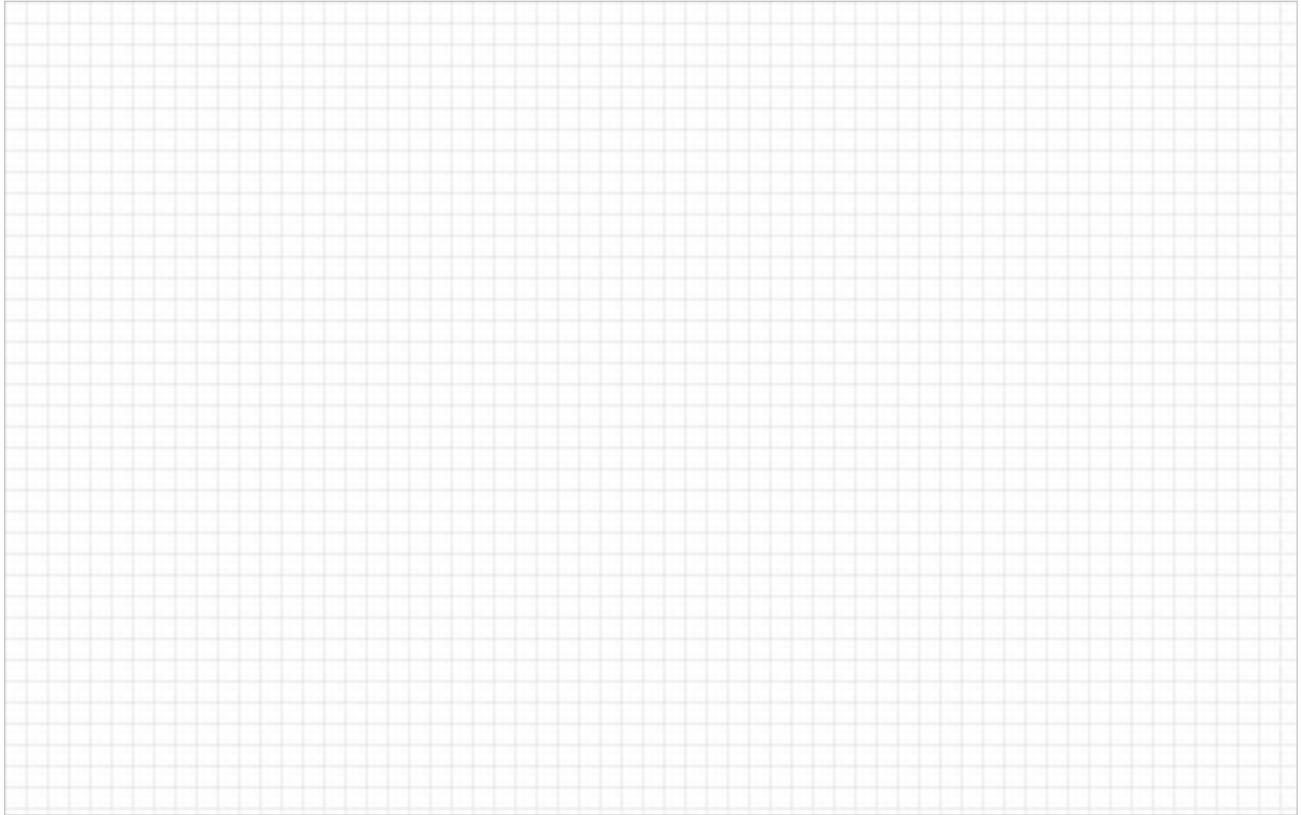
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Structural Diagram

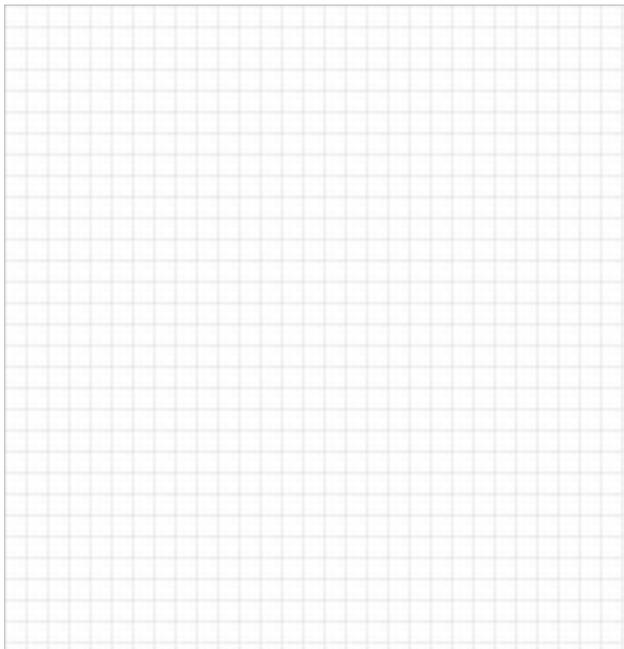
Observations



Interpretations



Principles



Applications

