

## BIBLE STUDY METHODS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2*

The Principle of the Teacher- If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.

1. You must know what you will teach- content
2. You must know who you will teach- audience
3. You must know how you will teach – methodology

We are teaching a subject to people.

I. Three understandings about this Principle.

A. This Principle says that the teacher is a learner, a student among students.

“An effective teacher teaches out of the overflow of a full life.”

“I would rather have my students drink from a running stream than a stagnant pool.”

“Classes don’t come alive until the people in them do.”

*2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

We must continue to grow if we are going to teach.

It takes grace and truth to teach. A balance must be found.

B. It requires an attitude that **you know** that you don’t know everything.

- *Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
- Paul is not proud of his success and not discouraged because of his failures. “I am here and now pressing forward (still learning).” Note that he is at the end of his life.
- Ask yourself, “How can I improve”
- The greatest threat to teaching is satisfaction.
- A teacher must create interest.

Knowledge is proud in what it knows.

Wisdom is humble because it knows so little.

This is where you as a teacher should know how to study the Bible for yourself if you are going to grow so that you may teach out of the outflow of your life.

In this session I will suggest two methods that will enrich you as you study the Bible for yourself. Other, as well as myself, have benefited from this method of Bible Study.

Remember, “If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.”

What Bible study will do in your life:

## BIBLE STUDY METHOD 1

Bible study method 1 has three parts that will help you as you study your Bible.

The first step to Bible study is;

1. **Observation** – Discover what it says. What is the Bible saying?
2. **Interpretation**- Discover what it means. Remember every passage has only one meaning.
3. **Application**- Discover how it works practically for your life personally.

Read the passage 10 xs then go back and read once through asking and answering the first question. Reread asking and answering each additional question. Some questions will have no answer in the particular text. Make sure you break the passage down into sections.

### **ASK WHO**

Who wrote it?

Who said it?

Who are the major characters?

Who are the people mentioned?

To whom is the author speaking?

About whom is he speaking?

### **ASK WHAT**

What are the main events?

What are major ideas?

What is the Major teaching?

What are the people like?

What does he talk about most?

What is the purpose in him saying that?

### **ASK WHERE**

Where was this done?

Where was it said?

Where will it happen?

### **ASK WHY**

Why did this need to be written

Why was this mentioned?

Why should they do such and such?

### **ASK HOW**

How is it done?

How did it happen?

How is it illustrated?

Studying the Bible using this method will make you a strong and mature Christian. You will be ready to teach and preach anytime you have an opportunity. This type of studying

of the Bible will enrich your mind and you will grow very deep in the knowledge of God's Word.

“Study to show yourself approved unto God, so that you will not be ashamed but will correctly divide the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)

## BIBLE STUDY METHOD 2

This method has five parts to it. In this method you use a book called a Spiritual Diary.

1. **The first thing to look for is that special message from God** for the day. Naturally, this will be influenced largely by the passage read for that day and your own particular need at the time.

2. **The second thing is a promise from God.** The Bible is filled with promises from God to His children. You won't find one in every passage, but they are so common that you will locate one very frequently. In many passages you will find several, and for that reason you should select the best one from the three or four chapters you read. There are three things to consider in claiming promises:

(a) Make sure they are universal promises

(b) Make sure they apply to you. Some are for Israel, some are for the people in the millennium, and some are promised judgments on the wicked.

(c) Another thing to keep in mind when looking for promises is whether there are any conditions to the promise. Example “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Never claim a promise from God unless you are willing to meet the conditions listed. You should always write down the condition that precedes a promise so you will know whether or not it is legitimate for you to claim.

3. **The third thing is a command to keep.** The Bible is filled with commands for God's people to obey. These commands are for our good, since the keeping of them both lengthens and enriches our lives. As you come upon these commands in your reading, you will be forced to select the most important of them for your life at that moment and enter it into your diary.

4. **The fourth thing is a timeless principle.** One of the reasons the Bible is the greatest manual on human behavior ever written is because it contains thousands of timeless principles for daily living. These are divine insights that guide the believer and help program his mind in advance so that when decisions are to be made he doesn't have to go through an agonizing thought process to make a decision. Example of this is found in Galatians 6:7: “...whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”

1 Peter 5:6: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

2 Corinthians 6:14: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.”

5. **The last thing is your application.** As a principle tool in implementing the above “finds” in your daily reading, pick out one that is in the area of your greatest need and list how you intend to implement it in your daily life. For example, suppose your command for today is. “Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also the church...” (Ephesians 5:25). Pick some area where you know you have been selfish with your partner and write in sentence how you plan to be more loving. By asking God's help you will find that not only will your spiritual life improve but your relationship with your wife will be enhanced.

This kind of simple but practical application to your life of the daily challenges you find in God's Word will definitely transform your life into the kind of growing, consistent Christian walk that every child of God needs. We will say more later about applying God's truth to your life.