

How to study the Bible

Important rule: Let scripture interpret scripture

This process is not supposed to be a deep theological study, but a simple process to equip in the discipline of Bible study.

Overview of the Bible

A good place to start would be looking at the Bible as a whole, understanding the big picture. I recommend going on thebibleproject.com

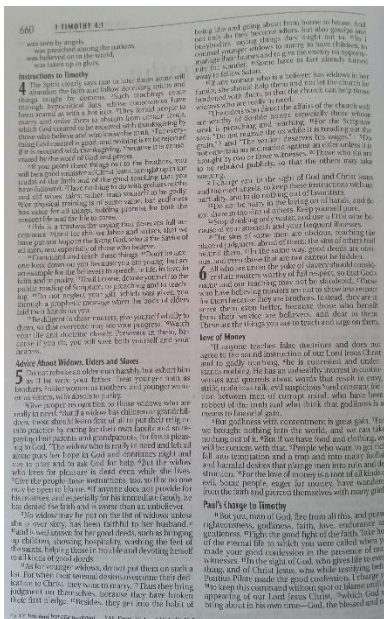
Look for the video series called How to read the Bible and watch these videos:

- What is the Bible
- Biblical Story
- Literary styles
- Ancient Jewish Meditation Literature
- Plot (very important)
- Character

Step 1: Context

- Select the book that you will be reading from.
- Read a background to the book in a study Bible, commentary or watch the outline video for that book *and* literary style on bibleproject.com.
- Do not read a verse in isolation, look to read the entire idea (this may extend past a chapter break). These ideas are called pericopes and are identified in your Bible with headings.

For example:



A photo of 1 Timothy 5. In the NIV the pericope starts with the heading, “Advice about widows elders and slaves” and runs from 5:1 – 6:2. If we stop reading at the end of chapter 5, we will miss the close of the idea in 6:1 and 2.

Step 2: Read the passage

- Read the passage that you are studying (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:1 – 6:2) at least 3 times.
- I recommend using more than one translation (of different types: Literal and Dynamic Equivalence).
- Take note of questions that you have when reading.

Step 3: Clarity

- Do I understand what I read?
- Make use of Bible tools like Logos 8 (this is a free download and highly recommended) passage study or a commentary to help clarify questions you may have.
- What were the original hearers hearing, how would they have understood this?
- What principle or eternal truth can I apply to my life from this passage?

This process could be summarized as: **Look, Listen, Live**