

# Study of the Bible (Women of the Word)

**-Purpose:** We must understand the Big story of the Whole bible (metanarrative)

- Metanarrative: Is the overarching story/theme of the whole Bible Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration
- If we read scripture without the big picture in mind we will have a less thorough understanding

\*Just because we say the word story does not mean the bible is fiction or it has characters, these are real events with real people\*

**-Patience:** We must give ourselves time to learn this process and to understand scripture: it isn't easy!

- The main reason we lack patience in our study is because of Instant Gratification: We want to learn things quickly and we want to learn it easily, but if we want to truly stretch our understanding and not just gain knowledge it will take time. Our usual response is to give up because it's too difficult and too slow. Or to take shortcuts like using Study bibles and commentaries to give us answers instead of working on them on our own. This process is slower but will be more fruitful.

\*Sometimes circumstances like having a new child or adjusting to a new job/school schedule means your study won't be as thorough as you want, it is just for a season have grace for yourself and get back to studying as soon as you can\*

**-Perspective:** We must understand how a book of scripture fits into the metanarrative of the whole Bible.

- "We, too, must occupy a modern space while maintaining an ancient perspective" (page 66)
- Gather perspective of the book of scripture you're going to study: 1. Who wrote it? 2. When was it written? 3. To whom was it written? 4. In what style/genre was it written? 5. Why was it Written?
- Genres: Historical narrative, Law, Poetry, Wisdom Literature, Epistles (letters), Prophecy, and Gospels - you will have to look up the differences in each, but you cannot read/study different genres the same way Ex.) you cannot take poetry as literally as you would Historical Narrative.

**-Process:** This is the "How to" of what to do: I want you to take **OWNERSHIP** of the Scriptures! I don't want all of your interactions with scripture to be from other people's mouth like sermons, commentaries, and studies.

- "We must be those who build on the rock-solid foundation of mind-engaging process, rather than on the shifting sands of "what this verse means to me" subjectivity." (page 95) The author and God have a purpose for this scripture so it has an intended meaning, we can't try to make it mean whatever we want it to.
- Stage 1: Comprehension - "What does it Say?"
  1. Print a Copy of the text: double space so you can write in it.
  2. Repetitive Reading: the more you read it the more you can comprehend, it also helps with memorization.
  3. Annotation: mark repeated words, attributes of God, definitions of words you don't understand, confusion, anything that stands out or is important to you.

4. English Dictionary: So you can define hard words or even words you may overlook that you don't actually know the meaning of.

5. Other Translations of the Bible: You want to compare a word for word translation (NASB, ESV, KJV, NKJV) to a thought for thought translation (NLT, NIV, CSB) to make sure you understand word choice and sentence structure.

6. Outlining: this helps us to understand the purpose the author wrote with and if we can simplify to the main points we have a good understanding of the scripture.

- Stage 2: Interpretation - "What does it Mean?"

\*We must try to interpret Scripture for ourselves first before we get help from others\*

1. Cross-References: look to see if parts of the scripture has cross references to other scriptures, if we go read the other scripture being referenced it may help us to better understand this scripture. "Let scripture interpret scripture"

2. Paraphrasing: write a difficult part of scripture in your own words, even if it isn't good it helps you figure out what is being said and look at detail and meaning. This is where you may struggle and wrestle with the text and try to come to a good understanding.

- Stage 3: Application - How should it Change Me?"

We want what we are learning to transform and change us to look more like God.

1. What does this passage teach me about God?
2. How does this aspect of God's Character Change my view of self?
3. What should I do in response?

### **-Prayer:**

- Two main reasons to pray during our study of scripture:
  1. Studying the Bible is all about our relationship With God so we should be inviting him into our study with Prayer.
  2. This process is hard so we will need God's help to really be able to study scripture well.
- What to pray: P.A.R.T." P-praise: glorify God for who he is and what he has done. A-admit: confess to God where you have fallen short. R-request: ask God to forgive your sin and to meet your needs. T-thank: give thanks to God for who he is and what he has done."
- You want to pray before, during, and after you are studying: the main things not to forget to pray for are help from God, sharing when you are struggling with studying, and to make sure to apply what you learn and be changed by it.

\*It's a lot of prayer, start small and keep growing it, this is one of the most important steps\*

### **-People:** Share what you have learned with other Christians

- If you did not know about most or any of this before this lesson then think about how many other Christians don't either, we can't keep this to ourselves, we must help others!

\*\*This process may seem like a lot but start where you can and God will multiply the work you put in and grow you to be able to do more with each book you study\*\*

