

HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE



IMMANUEL
BAPTIST CHURCH



If you have picked up this booklet you are at least a little curious about how to take a step in understanding God's will for your life. This is awesome, and I'm so excited for you.

Before we go any further, let me ask you a question. If someone offered you a delicious meal which meets all your needs for free anytime you were hungry, would you eat it?

Or would you want someone to chew it up, digest it, and bring it back up before you eat?

I know, incredibly gross, but, this is what we do with God's Word when we rely solely on others to inspect and interpret God's Word for us.

At our fingertips we possess a book with absolute truth to turn to in any situation. We have in our hands a manual for living an abundant life. God has offered us a life-giving meal for free anytime we are hungry for His voice.

For many, the thought of studying the Bible is intimidating. This small booklet is the start to breaking down barriers and understanding the basics of how to study the Bible. I pray you will use this to aid you in your time communing with God as you read and study. If you find this resource helpful, share it with your friends and family.

I am praying for you!

Blessings,

Ray Green
Lead Pastor



STORY

I used to work in radio as a producer. My corner office in a high-rise building overlooked a park with a fountain. The fountain cascaded into this crystal clear lake that sparkled. It was quite a sight! Then one day the fountain stopped working. The crystal clear lake turned gross green and scum appeared.

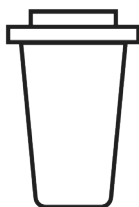
I remember thinking as I saw that gross green scum, “That is my life right now. I’m not moving. I don’t sense God speaking to me.” Then I remembered what Jesus said in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” The gospel of Jesus is like a fountain in our lives that brings refreshment to our souls. There is life, there is purpose, and there is direction!



POINT

There is abundant life in the gospel! What about your life? Is it abundant? How would you rate your life right now.

Draw your percentage line on the empty cup.



The overflowing life from the gospel is directly related to your proximity with God. Let me put it this way: Your your **thrive-ability** is directly related to your **availability** to God.

Think about it for a moment. We have 525,949 minutes in a year. Would you commit more of those to being more available to thriving in your life? If not, for you to expect different results is truly the definition of insanity — doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

Immanuel means “God with us.” How do we experience God with us? We experience God and find His will through His Word! I’ve heard it said, “*Those people who hear God best know His Word most!*”

Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are high than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

We discover His Will through scripture. I want to invite you into the greatest adventure of your life as you meditate and understand God’s Word — by reading the Bible, His Word, written to us, inspecting it, interpreting it, and implementing it to our lives.

INSPECT: What are the facts?

This first step is about observing things and asking the question, “What are the facts?”

Here’s a quick inspection test:

- Is/was your mom/dad right-handed or left-handed?
- How many steps are there in your house?
- How many stoplights are there between your house and your job?

Old School Test: Who’s your favorite detective? Joe Friday? Lt. Columbo? Magnum PI? Like a great detective, the first step is inspecting things about the verse and asking the question, “What are the facts?”

WHO?

WHAT?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT IS...

1. Emphasized
2. Repeated
3. Related
4. Alike
5. Unlike
6. True to life

Let's put it into practice. Find Acts 1:8 and spend 10 minutes inspecting it using what we mentioned above. Write down what you find. How many did you come up with? Here's the thing. I did this same practice when I learned this and eventually I came up with over 100 inspections of this one verse. There is so much here!

INTERPRET: What do the facts mean?

Step into the shoes of the author and ask, "What did this mean to them?" To understand what the passage meant to the author, use the five "C's" of Interpretation:

1. **Content:** You did this in the Inspect step. (So should we leave this out, or say the remaining four c's.)
2. **Context:** How does this fit in with what goes before and after the text.
3. **Comparison:** Use a concordance to compare the text with other scripture. You may have a short concordance in the back of your Bible. You can also do this online.
4. **Culture:** What were the cultural norms like when it was written?
5. **Consultation:** After you have completed the steps above, consult secondary resources like dictionaries and commentaries.

What do the facts mean for all people?

ACTS 1:8 INTERPRETATION...

IMPLEMENT: How will you respond?

“...to know the Bible and not be changed by it is like not knowing it at all.”¹

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

What happens when we do not IMPLEMENT?

1. We settle for knowledge rather than experience.
2. We substitute a Thriving Life for a Shallow Emotional Experience

FOUR STEPS TO APPLICATION

1. **Know what you are reading.**
2. **Relate it to your own experience.**
 - a. How does it relate to things with God? He is your Heavenly Father and He has saved you.
 - b. How does it relate to things with yourself? You develop a new self-image as a Christ follower because God loves you! You have tremendous value because of God's love!
 - c. How does it relate to things with others? Others are not your enemy, but they are people God has placed in your life.
 - d. How does it relate to things with the enemy? You are in a battle, and your enemy will do anything he can to take you DOWN!!!!
 - e. How does it relate to things with sin? The Bible exposes sin in your life.
 - f. How does it relate to things with God's promises? What can you expect from God and what you can rely on Him to do? This is incredibly comforting when you're facing circumstances that are beyond you.
 - g. What example does it give that you need to follow?

¹ *Living by the Book*, Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 2007

3. **Meditate:** Concentrated time on one thing. Turn off the cell, computer, and noise from your life as you ask God to show you where your life needs change.
4. **Practice the truth!** Just like an athlete.

Ask yourself some questions to implement the text in your life.

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there an error to mark?
- Is there a challenge to face?

IMPLEMENT: Practice Acts 1:8.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

1. Get a ***schedule***.
2. Get a ***friend or two*** to help you stay accountable
3. ***Journal*** your experience.



IMMANUEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

IBCLEX.COM

3100 Tates Creek Road
Lexington, Kentucky

2261 Armstrong Mill
Lexington, Kentucky