

# HOW TO STUDY THE B BLE

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## PART TWO: TOOLS FOR TRICKY TEXTS

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*  
**2 Timothy 2:15 niv**

**WE STUDY THE BIBLE TO HAVE A DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_ WITH GOD.**

### A. KEY WORDS

1. \_\_\_\_\_: “An explanation of the meaning of another’s artistic or creative work.”
2. Hermeneutics: deals with the rules and tools of biblical interpretation.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: means to “lead out.” (From *ex* “out” and *hegeisthai* “to lead, guide.”)

### B. INTERPRETIVE RULES

1. \_\_\_\_\_ interprets Scripture.
2. The Bible was written \_\_\_\_\_ us, but it was not written \_\_\_\_\_ us.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ things of Scripture are the \_\_\_\_\_ things of Scripture.
4. God’s Word is our \_\_\_\_\_ word.

### C. WHEN YOU'RE LOST...CHECK YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Have I asked God to show me?
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - What's happening around the text?
  - (Consider verses, chapter, book / Author, Audience, Occasion)
3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Where in the biblical library am I?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Where in time does this passage occur? (Old or New Testament)
5. \_\_\_\_\_
  - What do the words mean? How are they used elsewhere?
6. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is my interpretation consistent with the rest of the Bible?
7. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Does this make logical sense?
8. \_\_\_\_\_
  - How has the church historically interpreted this passage?
9. \_\_\_\_\_
  - What does my faith community think?

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## E. APPROACH BIBLICAL INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE WITH...

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- **James 4:6** NLT, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- God saves us based on His grace not our reasoning ability.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- **With** \_\_\_\_\_: I have an interpretive lens formed by personal experiences, fears and preferences. I need help from God’s Spirit and others to see clearly.
- **With** \_\_\_\_\_: I promise to graciously ask you to defend your view if / when your lens seems to be unduly influencing your view.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **THE AUTHOR**

- **Acts 15 Model** – Interpretation is not always a hard science. It is often more of an art or a dance between God’s People, God’s Word, and God’s Spirit.

## **F. ESSENTIALS FOR A GREAT BIBLE STUDY**

**1.** Choose a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1.** Ask, "When am I most alert?"

**2.** Choose a \_\_\_\_\_.

**2.** Ask, "Where can I be least distracted?"

**3.** Choose a \_\_\_\_\_.

**3.** Ask, "What will I read?"

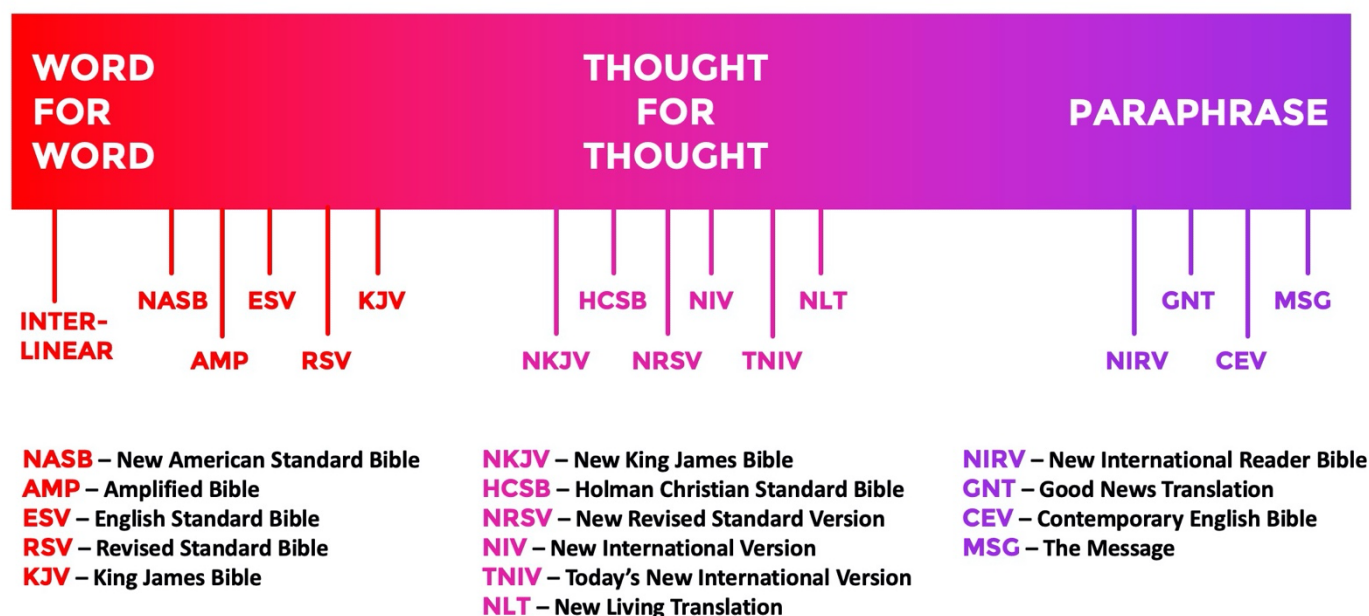
**4.** Resource: See reading plan links on page 3 for reading plans.

**4.** Be \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**5.** Ask, "Have I prayed?"

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### A. BIBLE TRANSLATION CONTINUUM



### B. BIBLE READING PLANS

- 1. The One Chapter A Day Reading Plan (15-minutes/day):** As the name implies, read one chapter of one book of the Bible every day. This plan is ideal if you are beginning the habit of daily Bible reading, since the relatively short readings help prevent burnout. If you miss a day just pick up the next day where you left off. Visit <https://clearcreekcoc.org/spend-time-with-god> for 4 different One Chapter A Day plans.
- 2. The One Year Bible Reading Plan (about 35-minutes/day):** Read 3-4 chapters every day beginning in Genesis. This plan is ideal for those who have 30+ minutes a day. I recommend the "Read Scripture" phone app. It provides the daily reading and user-friendly, bite-sized videos that explain key ideas and new sections of the Bible.
- 3. The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan (about 35-minutes/day):** This One Year Bible reading plan incorporates Old and New Testament Scriptures in each day's reading. I like this plan because I seem to always get something from my reading (i.e. if not from the Old Testament text, then from the New Testament). This plan is ideal for those with 30 minutes+ time every day. Download the plan at <https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Discipleship-Journal-Bible-Reading-Plan-9781617479083.pdf>

### C. LIBRARY OF THE BIBLE

