

CLASS 5 || STUDY OF GOD'S WORD

Reading and studying the Bible is crucial as it helps us understand who God is. The Word of God provides us with daily strength and serves as a guide throughout our lives. It acts as a spiritual GPS, showing us how to live faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ. It not only outlines the dos and don'ts of life but also shares the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Word of God is a light to our path and a lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105). It is by _____ the Word of God that we are _____ into the _____ of Christ. Much like how food nourishes our physical bodies, God's Word nourishes our _____ man.

I. Reading God's Word

Reading the Bible allows us to delve into its contents, such as the parables taught by Jesus, events and stories from the Old Testament, and the names of Jesus' disciples. Through reading, we can ponder on what we've read, gain insights from the experiences of Christ's followers, and discover ways to apply the teachings to our everyday lives. Moreover, reading the Bible unveils God's messages and provides a comprehensive understanding of His nature. It also offers us an opportunity to establish a deep connection with God and bask in His magnificence and benevolence.

By immersing ourselves in the Bible, we can grasp how our _____ should mirror God's _____, ultimately leading to further study and exploration of the scriptures.

Answers

likeness / character / knowing / spiritual / transformed / lives

To grow _____, we should do our best to read the Bible every day—our devotions or quiet time—as part of our time with God. During this daily time with God, along with reading the Bible, we should engage in prayer, praise, thanksgiving, confession, and meditation.

These are ways to _____ out to God with our spirit. Bible reading and these ways are means of letting God _____ our spirit and speak to our _____.

II. Studying God's Word

When studying the Bible, we go beyond simply _____ it. In studying the Word of God, we seek a _____ understanding of the scriptures and often use other resources such as concordances, commentaries, and various versions of the Bible (i.e., King James Version, New International Version, English Standard Version, etc.) as references. It is important to develop the discipline of studying the Bible by ourselves, but it is equally important to study the Bible with fellow believers.

Studying the Bible offers us the opportunity to delve deeper into the context and _____ of the text.

By examining the individual words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs, as well as the book and the canon, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of the text. Unlike reading alone, studying allows us to analyze the grammatical and historical aspects of the passage, enabling us to grasp the full meaning of the text.

Answers

reach / deeper / refresh / reading / meaning / spiritually / mind

Definition: The term canon, from a Hebrew-Greek word meaning "cane" or "measuring rod," passed into Christian usage to mean "norm" or "rule of faith." A biblical canon is the collection of books that comprise the sacred scriptures or Bibles of Jews and Christians.
(<https://www.britannica.com/>, <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/>).

It is crucial to engage in both reading and studying the Bible to gain a comprehensive understanding of God's nature and the immense significance of His ultimate gift: sacrificing His Son on the cross for our sins. While immersing ourselves in the Scriptures, it is important to bear in mind that God desires us to continually deepen our _____ of Him, and to discover godly wisdom and His unending grace each day.

III. What is the Bible?

The word "bible" means "book, scroll." The Bible is a remarkable collection of ancient writings we believe to be God's _____ to us. It's like a library of books and letters all bound up in one. The Bible is foundational to the Christian faith. It is through the Bible that we can _____ more about God and His plan to restore all people and the entire world to Himself by sending His son Jesus Christ to the earth as our _____.

The Bible is:

- a. Inerrant: The original autographs are without error.
- b. Infallible: The original autographs are without untruths.
- c. Holy: The original autographs (and our translation) are sacred and invaluable.

Answers

Messiah / revelation / learn / knowledge

1. Date of Composition

- a. Old Testament: 1500 BCE to 200 BCE
- b. New Testament: 50 CE to 100/150 CE

2. Places of Composition

The Bible was composed on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe

3. Languages of Composition

The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek

4. Types of Literature Contained in the Bible

There are several different types of writings included in the Bible. The _____ Testament is made up of historical books, law, poetry, wisdom, and prophetic books. The _____ Testament is made up of four Gospels, one history book, twenty-one letters and one prophetic book.

5. Theme of the Bible

The Bible tells the story of God's _____ with the masterpiece of His creation—man. It is an account of the glory of God and is the only instruction manual that the Creator has given to mankind to _____ in order to be in right relationship with Him. The Word of God is _____.

1 Peter 1:23. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

IV. How Did We Get the Bible?

- 1. We are blessed with the Bible through inspiration. It is God-inspired. It was literally "God-_____."

Answers

follow / breathed / New / relationship / Old / eternal

2 Timothy 3:16. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

The books and letters in the Bible were written by more than forty different people over a period of more than 1,000 years. Some of the writers were kings, royal officials, poets and even a doctor, while some parts were written by poor uneducated fishermen. There are also some parts of the Bible where scholars and historians are unsure of authorship.

2. God is the ultimate _____ of the Bible. God not only spoke directly to the original writers, but He also guided some writers as they compiled the _____.

- a. **Exodus 17:14.** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven."
- b. **Revelation 21:5.** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
- c. **2 Peter 1:20-21.** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Answers

Bible / author

3. Ultimately God “moved” on the writers, and they spoke/wrote His Word (2 Peter 1:21). These original writings are called “autographs,” none of which exist today, only copies of these autographs exist in fragments or codices and have been translated many times over the years up to modern times. Our modern Bible is sufficient to tell us what we must do to be _____ and _____ God.

Psalms 18:30. As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

V. Books of the Bible

Canon: Means “rule, measuring rod.” The Canon defines which books have been accepted as being inspired by God. There is no other book that is inspired by God apart from these books, and thus it is a “closed canon”

Revelation 22:18-19. God warns that if anyone adds to His Word, He will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll and if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, He will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City.

1. Thirty-nine Old Testament

- a. Law/Pentateuch (5 books): Genesis to Deuteronomy
- b. History (12 books): Joshua to Esther
- c. Poetry (5 books): Job to Song of Solomon
- d. Major Prophets (5 books): Isaiah to Daniel
- e. Minor Prophets (12 books): Hosea to Malachi

Answers

serve / saved

2. Twenty-seven New Testament

- a. Gospels (4 books): Matthew to John
- b. Church History (1 book): Acts
- c. Pauline Epistles (13/14 books): Romans to Hebrews
- d. General Epistles (7 books): James to – Jude
- e. Prophecy (1 book): Revelation

VI. Personal Study Methods

Bible study can sometimes become so absorbing that we lose sight of its true purpose. It's not just about gaining knowledge or memorizing verses, but rather about understanding the teachings of the Bible and applying them to our _____.

Before starting any type of Bible study, whether it's on our own or with a group, it's important to begin with _____. Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit is crucial in order to truly _____ the scriptures. Regardless of the specific approach we take, be it focusing on a book, chapter, character, or any other aspect, prayer should always be the first step.

A. Five Necessary Tools for Bible Study

- 1. Bible. A Bible you can mark up.
- 2. Bible Dictionary. Using a Bible Dictionary (Vine's is popular), or even a regular English dictionary is crucial to making sure you understand what you are reading.

Answers

comprehend / lives / prayer

3. Concordance. Use it to look up the original Greek, Aramaic or Hebrew words used. You'll find that not every time a particular English word is used it was translated from the same original word.
4. Bible Atlas. A Bible Atlas would help locate the places referenced in the text, understand the distances between locations, and show the political borders involved.
5. Commentary. There are two types of commentaries: book-specific commentaries and whole Bible volumes. A good plan is to have a good, whole Bible commentary and then collect the book specific volumes as you go.

B. Whole Book Study Method

Studying an entire Bible book provides a _____ understanding of its message, content, and purpose. By examining the Word in its _____, even familiar verses can reveal new insights.

By studying an entire book, we can gain insights into its style and genre, whether it's a letter, poetry, history, or something else. It also allows us to see the common themes that run throughout the Bible, rather than just focusing on isolated passages. Understanding how a book fits into the larger narrative of the Bible can deepen our _____ of the overall Bible story.

This method of study requires a bit of time. It may take a month or longer to complete this type of study. Allow yourself the _____ and know that it will be a blessing.

Answers

time / context / comprehensive / comprehension

As we _____ in Christ, it's important that we learn to dig into the Word of God for ourselves and not depend solely on the instruction of others. Consider the challenge from the writer of Hebrews:

Hebrews 5:13-14. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Six Steps for a Whole Book Study Method

1. Explore the book background.

Explore the _____ of the book by researching into the author, intended readers, and the historical context in which it was written. The book of _____ in the New Testament provides some of this information. Additionally, study Bibles usually offer a brief introduction that highlights key details about the author, location, time period, and purpose of the book. Start by searching the Bible for this information before referring to commentaries or Bible dictionaries.

2. Read through the book.

Read through the book several times. Consider using different versions. Since some books are quite long, it might be wise to begin with a shorter one, such as one of Apostle Paul's letters, like Philippians. Keep in mind that the books of the Bible were not initially organized into chapters, subchapters, or verses, so approach it as a _____ piece of writing.

Answers

background / grow / Acts / continuous

3. Create an outline for the book.

After becoming acquainted with the book, create a general _____ of its _____. Avoid being influenced by the pre-established divisions and feel free to combine multiple traditional chapters into one section. Keep your outline concise, focusing on the main concepts and including a couple of subpoints. Summarizing each section of your outline can also be beneficial.

4. Make a list of keywords from the book.

Look for _____ or often repeated _____ in the book and write them down. These are likely related to the overarching ideas of the book and are important to notice. You may consider doing a word study on these.

5. Identify theme and key verses found in the book.

Take note of the central _____, concepts, and significant verses. Reflect on how the theme is explored, explained, or the intended reader response. Key verses might provide a synopsis of the outlined sections, or some authors may even disclose the purpose behind their writing.

6. Take note of guidance, instruction, and personal application found in the book.

Consider the primary _____ or instructions given to the readers. Start by considering what the initial readers might have received or how they responded to the book. Historical books might contain lessons within the story.

Answers

content / keywords / outline / theme / words / guidance

Once you've contemplated the original message, proceed to reflect on the _____ truth it conveys. Certain books in the Bible provide precise commands for the original readers, but it may be more pertinent to all readers to consider the overall command.

Taking a step back can help us see the universal truths more clearly. For instance, we can examine the truths about God and how His character is portrayed in the passage. From these _____, we can derive valuable _____ for our own _____. When thinking about how to apply these lessons, it is more effective to frame them as positive actions, such as honoring God above all else, rather than focusing on what not to do, like avoiding idol worship.

C. Chapter Study Method

One of the best ways to delve into the depths of the Word is through “inductive” Bible study. The inductive approach involves examining a Scripture passage and deriving _____ from the observations made. Typically, this method consists of _____ components: observation, interpretation, and application.

Five Steps to Study a Chapter of the Bible

1. Read the chapter several times in different versions of the Bible and pray for understanding.
2. Do a verse-by-verse analysis of the chapter.

Answers

three / universal / lessons / truths / lives / conclusions

3. List all your questions about the verse and use the methods below to answer as many of them as you can.
 - a. Look up all the words you want to understand better.
 - Use an English dictionary.
 - Use a Hebrew/Greek dictionary if you have one, or an online resource.
 - b. Look up cross references to understand what the rest of Scripture has to say about the verse.
 - Use your Bible's margin notes.
 - Use a concordance to find verses that use the same words.
 - Use your own words to explain illustrations or descriptions.
4. Pick one key verse that _____ up the chapter for you.
5. Write down the verse that was most _____ to you and why. If you can't decide on one verse, choose the verses that sum up the chapter.
6. Ask, "What is God leading me to do in _____ to this study?"

D. Character Study Method

Character studies hold immense power for one particular reason. As we delve into the lives of biblical figures, we come to understand that there was nothing extraordinary about them that made them stand out. God did not select these individuals based on any inherent greatness they possessed. Surprisingly, God takes pleasure in employing imperfect, _____ individuals who, despite their shortcomings, wholeheartedly rely on his grace.

Character studies serve as a reminder that God chooses to work through _____ people like us, who may feel weak and inadequate.

Answers

response / ordinary / meaningful / flawed / sums

Five Steps for the Character Study Method

1. Choose a Bible character and look up references.

To gain knowledge about your Bible character, create a list of Scripture passages that you will study. You can refer to a reliable Bible dictionary or a comprehensive concordance to find the references where the person is mentioned. Additionally, the index in a study Bible can be useful. It is recommended to initially conduct your study in a rough draft format and then organize it neatly into a final form.

In the Bible, there are individuals with limited information mentioned about them, so it's important to include every reference to them in your study. On the other hand, individuals like David have an abundance of written material, requiring you to choose the most significant passages for your analysis.

2. Develop a biographical sketch.

Take the time to read and reflect on your chosen Scripture passages. Look up the details of the location your character resided in and the customs of that era by referring to a Bible atlas, Bible encyclopedia, and commentaries. Start pondering on how their life, the circumstances they faced, and the decisions they had to make relate to your own experiences. Then begin writing a brief biography of the person—the facts of the character's life, without interpretation.

In your biographical sketch, mention the significance of their name, their place and date of birth, and details about their family background. Additionally, highlight any unique influences or environmental factors that played a role in shaping their life and thoughts. Don't forget to mention their occupation, contemporaries, and associates.

Lastly, document their greatest accomplishment and contribution, their influence on their nation and family, and anything else of interest about them. Include positive and negative choices made.

3. Look for life principles that your Bible character practiced.

Take a comprehensive view of their lives and analyze their reactions in various scenarios. Observe their character traits, highlighting both their strengths and weaknesses. Keep in mind that certain aspects of their lives may be unique to their circumstances, making it difficult to directly apply everything to your own life. However, by extracting the overarching _____ from this study, you will always discover something valuable to incorporate into your own _____.

4. Look for a key verse that might sum up the Bible character's life.

Select a significant verse from your collection of scriptures that captures the essence of your character's life. This verse, or pair of verses, should serve as a powerful representation of their life journey. In case you are unable to find a verse that directly relates to their life, choose one that aligns with their main characteristic.

For example, a key verse summarizing Noah's life might be Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

Answers
life / principles

One characterizing the life of Mary of Bethany could be John 12:3, "Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair."

NOTE: The verse that stands out in your study could be worth memorizing.

5. Personal Application of the Character Study Method

Take some time to revisit your scriptures and biographical sketch. Reflect on what you have read and ask the Lord to _____ a principle that you can _____ or a characteristic that you should _____ or strengthen, or even avoid, in your own life. Record your intentions on how you plan to do work—in cooperation with the Holy Spirit—to align your life with to the _____ of Christ.

E. Place Study Method

Choose a biblical city you want to study, then start by searching for it in a concordance. Once you find all the references to that city in the Bible, take the time to read the different stories associated with it in both the Old and New Testaments. Make sure to write down all the passages that mention the biblical city and any common _____ that appear throughout the scripture. Additionally, analyze if the geographically related passages in the Bible are interconnected and if they convey a lesson that God intends for you to understand.

Answers

apply / develop / themes / image / reveal

F. Topical or Thematic Study Method

A topical study focuses on exploring ideas and themes found in Scripture. The depth of the study can vary, from delving into complex subjects like the doctrine of the Holy Spirit to examining practical topics like fear, anxiety, patience, or guidance on managing finances based on biblical principles.

Seven Steps for the Topical or Thematic Study Method

1. Find a topic to study.

To begin a topical study, the first thing you need to do is select a topic. You can choose a topic related to your studies or a spiritual topic that intrigues you. For instance, if you're currently reading 1 Thessalonians 4, you might want to explore the concept of sanctification further.

Alternatively, you might randomly develop an interest in understanding what the Bible says about anger, especially if you're currently dealing with anger issues.

Remember, there's no correct or incorrect method for choosing a topic; you simply need to find one that resonates with you.

Keep in mind that although you may choose to discuss your subject using modern language, it's important to consider the corresponding biblical terms. For instance, if you're interested in understanding what the Bible says about feeling "stressed out," your study should concentrate on terms such as anxiety, anxiousness, and worry.

2. Look for related words and synonyms.

After selecting your topic, the next step involves identifying any associated terms, phrases, or synonyms. The objective here is to uncover anything that may

be connected to your chosen subject. For instance, if your topic is stress, you can include related words such as fear, worries, and burden.

It is also beneficial to explore antonyms (opposites) for your topic, particularly if it has negative connotations. In the case of stress, you may want to examine concepts like peace and contentment as potential remedies for stress.

At this stage, you may end up with a lengthy list of words and topics to explore, which is perfectly fine. Instead of studying each one, select a few to concentrate on and utilize them as the basis for your study.

3. Define the related words.

This may seem like an unnecessary step, but before proceeding further into your study, it's important to ensure that you truly understand the topic you're focusing on. Start by consulting an English dictionary to find the meaning and jot it down. Additionally, refer to a Bible dictionary for a definition that aligns with biblical teachings.

If there is anything of interest in how the words are defined, be sure to note that. This step can also prove to be a great place to find additional related words to include in your study.

4. Find relevant Bible verses.

Once you have your word list ready, the next step is to search for all the Bible verses related to those words. To do this, it is recommended to use a comprehensive concordance. By using a concordance, you can easily find and compile a list of all the Bible verses that are relevant to your chosen words.

5. Make observations on each passage.

After compiling a list of verses to study, the next task is to carefully _____ through each passage. While reading, it is important to take _____ and make observations about the message conveyed in the passages. Pay attention to any warnings or _____ that should be taken seriously. Additionally, consider whether the biblical author instructs the reader to respond in a specific manner.

It's important to always consider the _____ when reading a verse. Don't just focus on the verse itself, but also what comes before and after it. Without understanding the context, you might _____ the meaning and draw wrong _____. Make sure to read with purpose and try to understand how the original audience would have understood it. Additionally, distinguish between passages that describe events and those that provide _____.

6. Organize your findings.

Once you have finished reading the text and taking notes, the next stage of your topical study involves organizing your findings. Look at your notes and each passage and categorize your study into _____ based on what is revealed in the text.

Group together all the verses that speak positively about the topic and do the same for the negative verses. As you go through this process, you will gradually develop a clear understanding of what the Bible says about your chosen topic.

Answers

notes / conclusions / subtopics / promises / misinterpret /
read / teachings / context

While there may be instances where you need to put in some effort to categorize certain verses, most of the time it will be quite evident which category each verse belongs to.

The outline you build at this step should provide a solid overview of what you've studied.

7. Summarize and apply what you've learned.

Once you have selected your topic, located the appropriate Bible verses, analyzed them, and arranged them accordingly, the only task remaining is to summarize your discoveries and _____ them to your _____.

With your outline as a _____, you can now condense and summarize your research into a concise statement. At this point, you should be able to confidently declare, "The Bible says ABC about topic XYZ."

From there, you should be able to use your outline and summarization to make an _____ from the topic.

You should be able to answer questions of application like the following:

- a. How does this topic apply to the present day?
- b. How will my life change knowing what the Bible teaches on this topic?
- c. What is the application for the church?
- d. What will change in my prayer life after learning about this topic?
- e. How will this topic affect my family and those around me?
- f. Did my view on this topic change after this study?
- g. How does this topic help me understand God better?

Answers

life / guide / application / apply

G. Word Study Method

The objective of a word study is to consolidate the author's or the Bible's usage of a specific word. When conducting a word study, one examines every instance of a particular word in the Bible, like faith or love, to gain a deeper understanding of its _____ and significance. This typically involves consulting a Strong's dictionary to identify the original Greek or Hebrew words from which the translated word originated. The emphasis is placed on analyzing individual words and their meanings, rather than broader concepts and ideas.

Perhaps the simplest approach to Bible study is to use the three basic inductive Bible study questions to ask of a Bible passage:

- a. What does it _____?
- b. What did it mean to those _____ it in Bible times?
- c. What does it mean to me as I seek to _____ it to my life?

VII. Benefits of Personal Study

1. Builds us up _____.

a. **Matthew 4:4.** Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

b. **1 Peter 2:2.** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

2. Shows us eternal _____.

John 5:39. Search and keep on searching and examining the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life.

Answers

life / usage / spiritually / reading / apply / say

3. Cleanses us of _____ when applied.

James 1:22-25. Do not merely listen to the word, do what it says.

4. Gives us wisdom.

Psalms 19:7. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

5. Warns us of _____.

Psalms 19:11. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

6. Blesses us spiritually

Revelation 22:7. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.

7. Prepares us for good works.

2 Timothy 3:16. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

8. Corrects our thinking and lifestyle.

2 Timothy 2:15. 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.

Answers

danger / sin