

**EXAMPLE:**

*It is possible to be just before God by receiving justice directly from God. The way to become just in this way is to believe in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as our substitute and accept it free.*

**8. ARRANGE IMPORTANT WORDS OF THE TEXT ACCORDING TO HOW THEY IMPACT YOUR EMOTIONS.**

Try to “enter” each significant word of the text and “feel” it. The word that evokes the strongest emotion (not necessarily positive) write at the top of your list. Name the emotion(s) you feel with each word.

By observing your emotional response to biblical words you may learn a lot about your spiritual condition. Your emotions could be viewed as a sort of “thermometer” measuring the quality of your relationship with God.

**EXAMPLE:**

- a. Jesus (friendship)
- b. God (fear, admiration)
- c. law (rejection, spite)
- d. grace (gratitude)
- e. faith (joy)
- f. sin (sadness; loneliness; desire)
- g. redemption (desire to know)
- h. atonement (mystery)

**9. FIND PARALLEL TEXTS/VERSES THAT ELUCIDATE THE PASSAGE YOU STUDY.**

These are the “cross-references” you find in your memory. By this you are training yourself to see each text in the light of the whole Bible. Using just the cross-references given in your Bible limits your imagination.

Of course, you have to be careful and critical whether what you write down as an analogy or a cross-reference is really related to your text. So be sure to write down the reasons and if in doubt, check it out.

Practicing this skill will protect you from misapplying the Scriptures.

**EXAMPLE:**

Romans 3:23 “all have sinned” → Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Romans 3:24 “justified freely by his grace” → Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

**10. WRITE DOWN THE DECISION HOW YOU ARE GOING TO APPLY THE STUDIED TEXT IN YOUR DAILY LIFE.**

This is the most important result of your Bible study, Learning the Word of God implies obligation to live according to its principles. Compare your knowledge, your attitudes, your emotions and lifestyle with the text and make concrete plans to conform to its demands.

**EXAMPLE:**

*I need to think more about what God has done for me than about what I am doing for him. This must change my negative attitudes toward more gratitude and praise.*

*I resolve to praise God for his grace and redemption every time I pray. Also I shall speak about this truth to...*

It is improbable that you will have time to do all of these steps daily. Select then those you find the most helpful.

**HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

(compiled by Pavel Hanes)

Daily reading of the Bible belongs to exciting duties of the Christian. As it happens so often, after some time the words of the Bible become so familiar that they stop speaking to his or her heart.

Here are few suggestions how the text of the Bible may “come alive” using simple methods of study. These helps are based on the belief that the Holy Spirit speaks to the heart through the mind. So deeper understanding of the Scriptures leads to heart-changing experiences in spiritual life.

Note: It is important to write down the results of your study in your personal Bible-study journal.

**1. SELECT A ONE-THEME PASSAGE FOR YOUR STUDY.**

Read cursorily the chapter preceding (if you are not at the beginning of a book) and the chapter following the chapter you are about to study. Write down the reasons you think have led the author to place the theme(s) of “your” chapter between them.

Next select a passage that you perceive as one thematic whole. This is going to be your text for study. Try to ignore the headings and paragraphs already given in the printed text. They are not found in the original manuscripts.

By selecting a text with a single theme, that you name and describe, you will understand the context and will be able to produce a short analysis of a biblical subject.

EXAMPLE:

Let's say you study Romans 3 today. Romans 2 deals with the *guilt* of humankind before God and Romans 4 speaks of the way Abraham was *justified* before God. Chapter 3 shows how the change was made possible. The key passage we select for study is Rom 3:21-26. The subject of our study-text may be given as "JUSTIFICATION"

## 2. GIVE YOUR TEXT A TITLE.

A title or heading of your section has to be short and has to fit the whole of the text you have selected for study. Ideally it should not be a phrase or a sentence containing a verb. A "normal" heading consists of nouns, adjectives and prepositions without a full stop at the end.

EXAMPLE:

Romans 3:21-26 could be entitled: JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE

## 3. FORMULATE AND WRITE DOWN THE MAIN IDEA OF THE PASSAGE.

The main idea of the text is the reason why it was written at all. It is the idea the author meant to communicate and it is what we should better understand after the study.

EXAMPLE:

The main idea of Romans 3:21-26 could be formulated in a sentence: *Although all people are sinners before God, they can be freely justified in Christ.*

## 4. SELECT AND WRITE DOWN THE KEY VERSE AND THE KEY WORD OF THE PASSAGE.

The word "key" is a metaphor of "opening". So a key verse and a key word should be such "keys" to the understanding of the text.

Key verse is the one that in your opinion gives the best and most comprehensive rendering of the whole passage.

Key word is the word that is the most important or has the best "links" to all sub-topics of the section.

EXAMPLE:

In Rom 3:21-26 the key verse could be the 24<sup>th</sup>: *[they] are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus*

The key word is GRACE.

## 5. CREATE AN OUTLINE THAT CONTAINS ALL THE IMPORTANT IDEAS OF THE PASSAGE.

Outline is a logical arrangement of the themes and sub-themes of the passage. It shows how the ideas are related to each other and what is their order of importance ("hierarchy"). A very important aim of this task is to decide which are the *leading* ideas and which are the *supporting* of *subsidiary* ideas in the logical development of the section.

EXAMPLE:

### 1. THE UNIVERSAL SPREAD OF SIN

1.1 All have sinned without exception

1.2 All fall short of the glory of God

### 2. THE WAY OF JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Apart from law [of Moses]

2.1.1 Freely

2.1.2 By his [God's] grace

2.2 Through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ [we get]

2.2.1 ...the redemption

2.2.2 ...the atonement

2.3 God demonstrates his justice

2.3.1 He is just in judging sin

2.3.2 He is just in justifying the sinner

## 6. WRITE YOUR OWN TRANSLATION OF THE STUDIED SECTION.

You need not to read Greek or Hebrew. Just try to replace each important word with some corresponding or synonymous word that is more familiar to you than the one used in the Bible.

EXAMPLE:

*We can see now how it is possible to become acceptable before God despite the fact that we are unable to fulfill the demands of God's will given through Moses and the prophets. It can be done by putting our trust in Jesus and his death on the cross.*

*All people are lacking what it takes to enter God's presence. But God has provided a way that makes sure he need not violate his own principles stated in his law and he still can receive rebellious humans as his friends.*

*The end of this enmity between God and us is received free through the identification of Jesus Christ with us in death penalty (atonement) and our identification with his life (redemption).*

## 7. WRITE A SHORT SUMMARY.

Express what you have understood and learned in your own words without consulting the text. This is important for your memory and also for your communication. Scriptures to your friends who are not Christians.