

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

WITH MATT & EMILY RICHARDSON

3 MAIN REASONS WHY PEOPLE DO NOT STUDY THEIR BIBLE

"It's old and it doesn't apply to my life."

"It's offensive."

"I want to read the Bible, but I don't know how / where to start."

ITS ALL ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP.

- If your only goal is to learn how to study the Bible, your goal is too small. Our main goal when reading the Bible should be two things: getting to know God in a deeper, more relational way, and learning how to read the Bible SO THAT we can teach others how to read the Bible. Learning the Bible is not just for information. It's about doing something with what you have been given.

Jesus in Matthew 28 - *MAKE DISCIPLES*

- What is a disciple? - "a learner of Jesus."

- Discipleship is not happening until there are 3 people. A disciple is someone who makes more disciples.

1. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE BIBLE WORKS

- The Bible is not a book. It is a library. A collection of 66 books split into two parts. Within those two parts are multiple sub groups. We wrongly perceive the Bible as a single book. This is a collection of 66 books written over thousands of years by many different authors. Sound like a book? Not so much. Sound like a Library? Bingo.

OLD TESTAMENT

1) Books of Law (In Hebrew "Torah" // In Greek "Pentatuch") - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

2) Historical Books (The history of God's people Israel) - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1/2 Samuel, 1/2 Kings, 1/2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah,

3) Poetry Books (Books written in poetic form) - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

4) The Prophets (Spokesman of God to God's people) -

Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

1) The Gospels (story of Jesus) - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

2) The History of the Church - Acts of the Apostles

3) Epistles (Letters) - Pauline - Romans, 1/2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1/2 Thessalonians, 1/2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews - General Epistles - James, 1/2 Peter, 1/2/3 John, Jude

4) The Book of End Times - Revelation

3 Important things to know when understanding the overview of the Bible

1) Descriptive vs. Prescriptive Truth

Descriptive - Stating facts / History. Not necessarily God's approval

Prescriptive - Timeless truths that are relevant and applicable.

2) Covenant & Kingdom - Within prescriptive truth, we find two filters to run the words through.

Covenant - Is this about my relationship with God? (God is Father)

Kingdom - Is this about my responsibility to God? (God is King)

3) Context is Key

It is your job as the student to not apply how you feel about the text, or what you think it means. Rather, it is your job to find the AIM (author's intended meaning.)

Ex: What did Paul mean when he said I can do all things through Christ? It appears Paul is saying I can climb mountains, and win football games, because I have Jesus. This is not at all what Paul was saying. Paul wrote this from prison. His actual meaning was "I can be content in all situations through Christ. BIG DIFFERENCE!!

Tools to understand context:

Commentaries / Study Bibles

Matts Favorite: Expositors Bible Commentary (Abridged)

Archaeological Study Bible

Online Resources

bibleproject.com || gotquestions.com || biblehub.com

Enduring Word Online Commentary || Right Now Media

2. OVERVIEW OF TRANSLATION

History Of Translations

- Bible was originally recorded in three different languages - Hebrew (OT) Aramaic (NT) Greek (NT)

- Jerome in 400 AD translated the Bible into Latin

- Years later, John Whitcliff translated the Bible into English

Years later, William Tyndale translated the Bible into better English

Which translation should I use?

The one that you understand / are excited about.

Descriptions of Translations

The best way to think about different translations is to think about it on a spectrum. On one end, is "word for word." This will be the most literal translations, yet much harder to understand. The other end is "thought for thought." This is where translators took all of the words and rather than literally translating them, they translated based on the thought behind the words to make it more understandable

Acceptable Translations

Word For Word Translations: Original Languages, NASB

Middle of the Road: ESV, NIV, NLT, CSB

Thought for Thought Translations: The Message

Unacceptable Translations

KJV - translated from Latin to English in 1611 and has not been updated since. We have much better translations today based on better understanding / new texts discovered / archaeology etc.

Descriptions of Bible Types

Once you have decided on a translation, pick a Bible type

Plain Jane: Just bare bones Bible. Great for preaching or travel due to its smaller size.

Study Bible: Includes more context, application. Designs to help reader really understand what's happening.

Journaling Bible: Plain Jane Bibles, but have tons of space to write and journal in as well.

3. HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Before you study the bible:

Find predictable pattern: find a time that consistently works for your life/schedule

Make it something to look forward to: create a space that you enjoy whether it's lighting a candle, making a cup of coffee, sitting on the porch, etc.

Start with prayer: Get your head and heart in the right place before spending time with Jesus to get the most out of your time

Start with a Gospel: If studying the bible is new to you, we suggest starting with one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John - The Good News Of Jesus)

SOAP - An easy to remember acronym for how to study the Bible well.

S - SCRIPTURE (What does the text say?)

One problem most people make is that they read in Chapter blocks. Those were not there initially. Instead of reading a chapter at a time. Read your Bible a light bulb at a time. Read until something really speaks to you - Some days that might be 2 chapters. Some days it might only be 3 verses. Not about how MUCH you read. It's about reading until something speaks to you.

O - Observation (What does the text mean?)

- Context is SO IMPORTANT. We recommend using a commentary because it helps us find what the text actually means, not what I WANT it to mean.

A - APPLICATION (How does this verse/this passage apply to my life?)

ALL scripture is relevant to your life right now. (2 Timothy 3:16) So we suggest asking some of these questions:

How has this verse taught me something new? How is it rebuking and correcting me where I'm wrong? How is it training me to become more like Jesus? What areas of my life do I need to work on based off of this scripture?

P - PRAYER

What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

We believe God speaks through his word. - Prayer is where we let what we are reading about Him, become the Words from Him.