

Bible study method—Part A

Introduction:

This Bible study method—Part A, has been developed from information found in *Josh McDowell's Guide To Understanding Your Bible*, by Josh McDowell. These templates have been developed for personal or group use, and come with limited instructions and examples, to get you engaging with your Bible every day, in a deeper, life changing way. For further detailed information, you should read Josh McDowell's excellent book.

Instructions:

1. Read a chapter of the Bible 3 times in a row.

The more times you read it, the more insight you will have in filling in the answers, in each section.

2. Divide the chapter into paragraphs.

A paragraph gives you one thought, amongst the greater theme of the chapter. In a Bible translation such as the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), the paragraphs have already been formatted for you.

3. In section 1, write out the first paragraph.

Writing out information helps trigger your memory when you need to recall it later.

4. In section 2, make observations derived from that paragraph.

These six questions help you to see much more detail, that simply reading your Bible does.

5. In section 3, write a keyword, or title for that paragraph.

This will be made use of in Section B.

6. In section 4, write down anything from that passage you would like more information about.

This is where you can write down words you would like to define better, places mentioned you might like to know more about, phrases you don't understand, questions you may have.

7. In section 5, paraphrase the passage into your own words.

How would you explain the passage, to someone else, if you didn't have it in front of you?

8. In section 6, write some points on how this passage might impact your life.

9. In section 7, write a personal prayer, based on what you now understand about this passage.

10. Grab a new template, and continue to the next paragraph.

Once you have completed the whole chapter, it will be time to move on to the next part of the Bible study method—Part B.

"A changed life brought about by a relationship with Jesus Christ that is carried out on a daily basis where the individual engages (receives, reflects and responds) the Bible four or more times a week."

- Dr. Arnie Cole, Centre for Bible Engagement

Bible study method—Part A

1. Write passage here: Include book/chapter/verse reference, and translation.

"A changed life brought about by a relationship with Jesus Christ that is carried out on a daily basis where the individual engages (receives, reflects and responds) the Bible four or more times a week."

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2. Observations: Discovering the detail within the passage.

Who? The 'characters' in the story

What?

When?

Where?

How? By...

By...

Why? Because...

Because...

So that...

Reflect

Bible study method—Part A

3. **Keyword(s):** _____

4. **To Investigate Further:** What are the definitions of certain words? What questions can you ask about this passage?

5. **Paraphrase:** If someone asked you what this passage says, or is about, what would you say?

Respond

6. **Life Application:** How can I apply this passage to my own life?

7. **Personal Prayer:** A prayer for yourself or others, based on all the above.

1. Write passage here:

James 1:1 (HCSB)

James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ:

To the 12 tribes in the Dispersion. Greetings.

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2. Observations: Discovering the detail within the passage.

Who? *James a slave of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Likely the half-brother of Jesus (see Matthew 13:55).

What? *A letter written to the 12 tribes in the Dispersion.*

When? *Circa 40AD, when James was the leader of the church in*

Jerusalem (Acts 15:12-21; Gal 1:19).

Where? *Most likely in Jerusalem, writing to the Jewish Christians*

outside of Jerusalem.

How? *Via a letter from the leader of the Christian church.*

Why? ** To encourage Jewish Christians, who were scattered outside*

their homeland, probably due to persecution (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19).

** To teach and correct.*

Reflect

Bible study method—Part A [EXAMPLE]

3. **Keyword(s):** *Greetings.*

4. **To Investigate Further:** What are the definitions of certain words? What questions can you ask about this passage?

** A slave of God—why 'slave' and not 'servant'?*

** Names of the 12 tribes?*

** The Dispersion—research this term.*

5. **Paraphrase:** If someone asked you what this passage says, or is about, what would you say?

A big hi to the 12 tribes of Christian Jews, living outside of Jerusalem.

From James, slave of God.

OR:

James begins his letter by greeting the 12 tribes in the Dispersion.

Respond

6. **Life Application:** How can I apply this passage to my own life?

If I am God's slave, what does that mean for my lifestyle choices?

A slave is owned. If God owns me, what should I be doing?

7. **Personal Prayer:** A prayer for yourself or others, based on all the above.

Lord Jesus, help me to remember Christians who are persecuted in other countries. I ask you to guide me to do what you want me to do for you, in my work and personal choices.

Bible study method—Part A [EXAMPLE]

1. Write passage here:

James 1:2-4 (HCSB)

Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

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2. Observations: Discovering the detail within the passage.

Who? *Brothers.*

What? *Great joy; various trials;
Testing of your faith; endurance.*

When? *During various trials.*

Where? *The Dispersion. Outside of Palestine, Greece and so forth.*

How? *Testing of your faith, produces endurance.*

Why? *So that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.*

Reflect

Bible study method—Part A [EXAMPLE]

3. **Keyword(s):** *Endurance.*

4. **To Investigate Further:** What are the definitions of certain words? What questions can you ask about this passage?

** Trials—what trials were Jewish Christians facing in 40 AD?*

** Endurance—look up definitions in general and Bible dictionaries.*

** Mature—what does it mean to be 'mature?'*

5. **Paraphrase:** If someone asked you what this passage says, or is about, what would you say?

You should be happy when life gets really hard, because a hard life makes you tougher. But being tough isn't enough. You also have to grow up. That's when you will be a complete person, and you'll find that you have everything you need.

Respond

6. **Life Application:** How can I apply this passage to my own life?

How do I respond when people aggressively criticise what I believe about Jesus?

How can I grow up, becoming a mature Christian?

7. **Personal Prayer:** A prayer for yourself or others, based on all the above.

Lord Jesus, give me the knowledge and speaking skills, to respond as you would, to people when they knock Christianity. Help me to be a good witness of the faith by my behaviour.