

In Depth Bible Study - Philippians 4:4-20

Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

There are numerous verses throughout the Scriptures that encourage us to study it and put it into practice. For example, 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." We can't rightly handle (apply) it if we don't know what it says. This morning, we're looking at how to do in-depth Bible study. Maybe you're new to the Christian walk and the thought of Bible study is intimidating or maybe you've been a believer but has never delved into doing personal in-depth Bible study. Hopefully after this morning, you'll feel more equipped on how to apply this practice into your walk.

You're going to need a few resources in order to do this. First, you'll need a good study bible, like the ESV Study Bible. There are multiple reliable English translations available like the ESV, CSB, and NIV. We're not going to address what the differences are here. The important part is to get one that is accurate and readable for you. The study bible portion is important because they will have book introductions so that you can better understand the context of the book or passage you're studying. Second, you're going to need some way to mark your text, like colored pencils.

The first step in the high-level process is Observation or what does the text say? This step includes reading whatever passage or book you're studying multiple times, at least 5-7, but really you can't read it too much. The point is to internalize the text and get a feel for the flow of the passage. Only after reading multiple times, then start to mark the text looking for key words or phrases (look for repetition). Watch for comparisons and contrasts. Mark terms of conclusions. Ask the 5 "W's" and an "H" of the text (who, what, when, where, why, and how).

The second step is Interpretation or what does the text mean? This step is where you answer the questions you asked of the text in the Observation step. This is where you need to be careful not to do what is called eisegesis (read into the text your preconceived ideas or doctrines if the text isn't specifically teaching them). This is where we must be careful to be mindful of the context of the passage. Read 2-3 chapters before and after the passage and/or the entire book. For example, one of our verses this morning is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." What does the "all things" in this passage actually refer to? Does it really mean that I can really do anything or does the context of the passage limit it to something more specific?

The last step is Application. Now that we know what the text says and we know what the text means, we now ask the question what does that mean for us? Some questions to ask as we go through this step are:

1. Are there any promises to be believed?
2. Are there any doctrines that need to be studied further?
3. Are there any principles to apply?
4. Are there any commands to be obeyed?

I really like how Pastor Alistair Begg frames these.

1. Head - How is God calling me to think differently?
2. Heart - How is God reordering my heart's affections - what I love?
3. Hands - What is God calling me to do as I go about my day today?

So why do we do all this? Why is it so important? Paul tells us, as we saw earlier, that we are to do our best to present ourselves to God (2 Timothy 2:15). Paul also tells us in Romans 12:2 to not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of

our minds. That happens as we study and meditate on God's word. Lastly, and most importantly, the Scriptures point us to Jesus. John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me."

If all of this seems daunting, don't fret. This is going to be a skill that you need to grow in and the more the do it, the easier it will get. That being said, a family in our church has some resources they have created to walk you through this process in a very structured way. It's called Study Well. There is both a Guide and a Workbook. The Guide will walk you through everything and the Workbook is there for you to write down everything throughout all three steps. What's better, the resources are free to download from the website, which the link is listed below. If you'd rather have physical copies, those are available for purchase on the site as well. I can't encourage you enough, especially if this concept is new to you, to take advantage of these resources to help you really dig into God's Word.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Samuel 22	1 Samuel 23	1 Samuel 24	1 Samuel 25	1 Samuel 26	1 Samuel 27	1 Samuel 28

Reading from this past week's sermon: Philippians 4:4-13

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 1:1-9

Family Worship

Song - *Speak O Lord*

<https://youtu.be/aH1Wn4fTiBs?si=YDno3PfsV7hY8U5Z>

Gospel Project

Unit: King Saul

Story: Samuel Anointed David

Big Picture Question: Who is our King?

Answer: Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16

New City Catechism

Question 26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

Answer: Every part of fallen creation.

Verse: Colossians 1:19-20

Philippians 4:4-20

- What are some of the benefits for studying God's Word?
- What is the ultimate goal for our Bible study? (Hint, it is to know God). How can we make sure we keep that goal in sight when we read and study?
- What are the steps for good Bible study? Why is it a good idea to dig deeper from time to time and do this sort of study?
- This week find a passage and work through it using the steps Scott laid out.

Prayer

*Pray that God would give us a passion to study His Word, and that we would see Biblical literacy grow in your life, in that of your family, and in the life of our church.

*Pray for our partners and Genesis members Nick & Lorraine Mosca along with their family serving in Papua New Guinea.