

STARTING THE BSP

WHERE DO I BEGIN WITH THE BIBLE STUDY PROJECT?

Begin by choosing a chapter that speaks to you the most. Our message will not grip someone else until it first grips us.

In thinking about a text to present to others, often a good starting place is ask what the Lord wants to teach you at this time. God-given passion is what makes something convincing to others.

WHAT TOOLS DO I HAVE AVAILABLE TO ME?

> CONCORDANCE (stepbible.org)

This book help you find the other Bible passages which contains a word or idea found in the verse in which you are working. This can help clarify the original meaning of the author.

> BIBLE DICTIONARY OR ENCYCLOPEDIA (biblestudytools.com/dictionaries)

These books explain the meaning of historical places, cultural events, and people's names that appear in scripture.

> THEOLOGICAL/WORD DICTIONARY (netbible.org)

A book like "Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words" will give you the specific meaning of words in the original language and shed light on the meaning of specific words in a verse.

> BIBLE COMMENTARY (biblegateway, blueletterbible)

Bible commentaries are other people's interpretation of a text. There are whole bible commentaries and book commentaries. Depending on the author, the interpretation will reflect his or her theological views. Go to such resources more for information rather than interpretation.

WHAT IF I HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE?

We understand that this may be the first time you have been asked to prepare a bible study in this way. We'll tell you who will be correcting the assignments this year, so please come first to them as questions arise.

Make sure to plan your time well: remember that it's due **NOV 27**

It is our hope that this assignment will be the means God uses to show you the thrill of studying His Word and also that He may have gifted some this year to use this gift for His glory in the future. During the second term we will be asking some to share their projects with the rest of the student body.

GETTING IT DONE

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU TO HELP
YOU COMPLETE YOUR BIBLE STUDY PROJECT:

1 - PRAY

As soon as you have chosen a passage (from student handbook) that is meaningful to you, consciously pray that the Lord would teach you things that would otherwise not be possible to know apart from a work of the Holy Spirit.

It is relationship, not scholarship, which will determine what God is able to teach us through the Word. Spend some time meditating on 1 Cor 2:6-16.

2 - READ

Read through your chapter in one sitting as many times as possible within the first week of choosing it. This will allow main ideas to be impressed on your heart and mind. If at all possible, read the chapters surrounding your chosen chapter and even the entire book to get an overview of where your chapter fits in the book.

3 - LOOK FOR THEMES

Begin taking notes on some of the main themes that jump out at you as you read through the passage. Write down other Bible passages that you're reminded of when reading your passage. Jot down anything that is meaningful to you. Take note of words, names and places that are repeated in the chapter. Write down any questions you have.

4 - GO DEEPER

Begin to do more study on the meaning of important words, people and places that appear in your text. Read the chapters of the Bible where the different characters in your passage were first introduced and also note significant things that happened in their lives. You should also do this with place names and other important words as well. Try to answer the questions that occurred to you as you read.

Feel free to make use of the Bible study resources in the lecture hall and library.

5 - OUTLINE IT

After you have read through the chapter a number of times you may recognize an outline based on the content of the material in the chapter. On a separate piece of paper write out a simple outline of the chapter. Don't go into too much detail. Make sure you include every verse of the chapter.

6 - CROSS-REFERENCE

Take note of cross-references which deal with the same topic, person, or event contained in your passage (Concordances help with this!)

Take special note of verses that are quoted elsewhere in Scripture. In other words, let Scripture interpret Scripture. Example: Compare Gen 22 with Rom 4:16-22 and Heb 11:17-19.

7 - CONSIDER THE APPLICATION

Take notes on the main lessons learned throughout the chapter and begin to order them under the headings of your outline.

Think about how the specific ideas learned from the passage relate to our life in Christ and how you could illustrate these lessons. Consider the power of story to communicate! Remember to apply this paper personally to your life, not just all Christians in general.

8 - WRITE

Once you've done the above steps, writing the paper simply consists of compiling your notes, organizing them, and presenting the thoughts in a clear and logical way! Since you will be graded on context, interpretation, and application, your paper should reflect these 3 parts in its structure, and include a "works cited" page. Also, read your final paper through at least once to see if it makes sense. It doesn't matter how good the thoughts are, if it's hard to understand, it's hard to grade!