

Old Man – New Man “Program 4”

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Effective Bible Study

This lesson is relevant today because of the many apparent opinions concerning God’s Word. Is it possible for us to study the Bible on our own? Does the Bible give different answers to the same questions? What place does our opinion play in our understanding of the Bible? Let’s open the Word and learn directly from it.

Declare

1. Go around and talk about your favorite car. Answer the question: if you could have any car in the world what would it be and why?
 - a. _____
2. Turning the God’s Word, what is your favorite bible story? You don’t need to find the reference, but explain briefly [with less than ten words] why it’s your favorite story and why.
 - a. _____
3. What place does the Bible have in your life? There’s no wrong answer here, just the reality.
 - a. _____

Dig

4. “If God’s Word were studied as it should, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times.”¹ How do you react to this comment on the value of God’s Word? Do you agree with this statement?
 - a. _____

5. As important as the study and daily reading of the Bible is, the reality is that a typical guy has a few things against him when it comes to the study of the Word of God. List some of the objections or excuses men give when it comes to studying the Bible. Write them down and then discuss how each of these reasons can be overcome. The purpose of this question is to help the group members overcome excuses that we have for not getting into the Word.
 - a. Example: Problem - “I don’t like to read.” Solution – Listen to the Bible in CDs.

6. God’s Word is powerful. Read Hebrews 4:12 and share with the group why Paul says this about the Bible. Perhaps you can share something you have experienced about God’s Word that will confirm what Paul is saying.
 - a. _____

¹ Gospel Workers, page 249.

7. There are so many passages that we could cite concerning the importance of Scripture. Read Acts 4:12 and John 5:39 and discuss what is the main purpose, the central theme of the Bible. Why is this theme important to you?

a. _____

Devote

8. Read 2 Timothy 2:15. This text actually challenges men to truly know the Bible. Pastor Labrador said that we need to “chisel out” the words of God and what they mean for us. In this section we want to encourage you to pick up God’s Word and make the study of it a daily habit, and also suggest tools for your to dig into God’s Word with confidence.
9. Make a list of “Bible-study-tools” and share it with the group. Use the back of this page for this list. Suggestion: as a group you could get together in the purchase of some of these tools and then share them within your group.
10. Different methods of Bible study. This section is for you to consider trying different methods until you find the one that truly helps you connect with Scripture.
- a. Topical Study – This style focuses on a biblical subject and searches throughout Scripture for passages that talk about this particular subject. [I.E. study “grace” in the Bible]
 - b. Narrative Study – This style takes biblical stories and tries to find lessons that are applicable to the reader. As you read the story answer the following questions: [try it on Numbers 22:21-35]
 - 1. What is the text saying about God/Christ/HS?
 - 2. What is the text saying about the people in the story?
 - 3. What is the text telling me?
 - 4. What commitment or response I’m to give?
 - c. Parallel Study – mainly used to study the Gospels [Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John] but it can also be applied to the books of the 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles. In this style you take a passage from one of the four Gospels and find the same story in the other three Gospels. Then you line them up side by side and by comparison you try to put all the pieces of the story together. The beauty of this study is that where at one point there may seem to be a contradiction now you can start to see the beautiful picture that these four witnesses put together, like a large puzzle, of the stories of Jesus.
 - d. Following doctrinal Bible Studies. There are a large number of Bible studies that have already been put together by Bible scholars. These lessons put biblical doctrines in a logical sequence of verses that help you understand particular themes throughout Scripture. A great source for such material is Amazing Facts. See amazingfacts.org or call 916-434-3880.
11. We started our lesson asking about your favorite car. It is easy for us to get excited about cars, sports, and other things. It is about time we get excited about knowing more about God’s Word. Share with the group what method you are going to experiment with and encourage each other to get into God’s Word. It is addictive and hopefully contagious too!

Close with prayer asking God to help each group member to become excited about God’s Word.