

Discovering CHRIS-TI-AN-I-TY

[The New Foundations]

Study Programme

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Study 1

How Do I Read the Bible?

What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by 40+ men in 3 languages between 1500BC and 90AD.

The Bible was given to us by _____ [2Timothy 3:16] *literally ‘God-breathed’*

The men God used to write the Bible were moved by the _____ [2Peter 1:21]

It is our _____ for battle [Ephesians 6:17] and our milk for _____ [1Peter 2:2]

It is sweeter than _____ and more precious than _____ [Psalm 19:10, 119:72, 103, 127]

It is _____, _____ and _____ [Proverbs 30:5, 2Samuel 7:28, Psalm 12:6-7]

The Bible is:

Inspired - _____

Inerrant - _____

Immutable - _____

How to Use the Bible

1. Hearing [1Thessalonians 2:13]

Regularly attend the meetings in your local church when there is a gathering together to listen to the Bible being read, taught and applied. Pay attention to what is being said. If it helps, take notes.

2. Reading [1Timothy 4:13, Acts 17:11]

It's good to read the Bible every day [Psalm 1:2]. Schedule a time into each day for this. Reading 4 chapters a day will allow you to finish the Bible in one year.

3. Studying [2Timothy 2:15]

Pick a shorter passage and study it. Keep a notebook of your studies. Don't be afraid to mark your Bible. Get good commentaries and study books that your pastor recommends.

4. Meditating [Psalm 119:15, 148]

The idea of meditating means to ponder over something. After reading or studying the Bible it's good to take a truth with you throughout the day and to ponder over it.

5. Memorizing [Psalm 119:11]

Memorize helpful verses of the Bible. Save a verse on your phone, write it on a small card, download a screensaver for your phone with the verse on it. Keep memorizing different verses.

6. Obeying [Luke 8:21, 11:28, James 1:22-25]

After hearing, reading, studying, meditating or memorizing the Bible we should apply it to our lives. We need to obey what the Bible says, otherwise we have missed the whole point.

Study 2

How Do I Pray?

What is Prayer?

Prayer is communication with God.

When Christ died the _____ was rent from _____ to _____ [Matthew 27:51]

This was a sign that we now had _____ to God through _____ [Ephesians 3:12]

We are now invited to come to God's throne of grace _____ [Hebrews 4:16]

How to Pray

Christians pray to the _____, through _____, by the _____ [Ephesians 2:18]

1. Praise (Hebrews 13:15)

This is where we praise and worship God for His character and attributes. As we meditate through the persons of God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit we will discover so much to praise. It's important to see, here, that prayer is not just asking but also basking in who God is.

2. Thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2)

This is where we thank God for all that He has done, is doing and will do. We can thank Him for the gospel, for providing for us and protecting us, for hearing us, for working in ours or another's life, for a previous prayer that He has answered. We can even thank God for the difficulties we face, knowing that He is using them for our good and His glory.

3. Confession (1 John 1:9)

This is where we confess our sins to God. As Christians we still stumble into sin and when we do we need to come and admit it to God and ask for strength to resist. Psalm 51 is a good example of a prayer of confession.

4. Intercession (1 Timothy 2:1)

This is where we pray for the needs of others. Here we can pray for the unsaved people we know and have spoken to about Christ. We can pray for those who are sick or mourning. We can pray for missionary friends. We can pray for the leadership of our church. We can pray for countries around the world that need the gospel.

5. Supplication (Philippians 4:6)

This is where we pray for ourselves. We can pray for God to guide our future. We can pray for our needs. We can pray for safety in travel. We can pray for God to use us.

Praying through the Bible

We can pray as we read the Bible. God speaks to us through the Bible and we speak to Him through prayer. Try reading a passage of the Bible, stop after reading each verse and think about something or someone to pray for in relation to the verse, then move on to the next verse. God has given us many promises that we can claim in prayer. A number of the New Testament epistles contain inspired prayers that you can use to guide your prayer [Consider Colossians 1:9-11].

Study 3

Is Church Important?

Universal and Local Church

Every born again believer is part of the Universal Body of Christ. Every born again believer should also become part of a local church.

The Church is the _____ Christ is the _____ [Ephesians 1:22-23]

The Church is the _____ Christ is the _____ [Ephesians 5:22-33]

A true New Testament church is a **local** and **independent body** of **baptized believers** who keep the two **ordinances** and who are committed to the **teachings** of Christ and the spread of the **gospel** under the **leadership** of **male elders** and **deacons**.

Is Church Important to Me?

We are commanded to not _____ [Hebrews 10:25]

What are we do to instead? _____

When are we to meet more? _____

Becoming a Member

You must be _____ [Acts 2:47] and _____ [Acts 2:41]

You must be committed to live in obedience to Christ and in love for His body [Matthew 18:15-17]

What should be the characteristics of the church I join?

- They will be obedient to the Great Commission [Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8]
- There should be careful preaching and teaching from the Bible [Acts 20:28-31]
- There should be noticeable separation from the world [2Corinthians 6:14-16]
- Discipleship should be an important ministry in the church [2Timothy 2:1-3]
- They will practice the two Ordinances of Baptism and Communion
- The church is led by male elders and deacons [1Timothy 3]

The benefits of being a member:

- Being a member means you can be more involved with the work
- Being a member gives you accountability
- Being a member gives you the right to vote

Do I Have a Role?

- Come and learn all that you can so you can grow and mature in your new life
- Encourage others to come, encourage those who come to love Christ
- Gather to worship Christ in song, prayer and preaching, come ready to worship
- Each of us have a different role to play in the life of the church [1Corinthians 12]

Study 4

What is Baptism?

Examples of Baptism

Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)

Jesus was baptised _____ the river Jordan (Mark 1:9)

The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41)

They that gladly _____ the word were baptised

The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:36-39)

He had to _____ with _____ his _____ first

The Jailer (Acts 16:25-33)

He and his family trusted Christ and were baptised _____

Explanation of Baptism

- Baptism is a Church Ordinance that God has commanded us to do (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Baptism is one of the first steps of Christian Obedience
- Baptism is an outward picture of an inward reality; it's a public testimony of our faith in Christ

Read 1Corinthians 15:1-4, Romans 6:1-6

Death - death to _____ Burial - burial with _____ Resurrection - risen to new _____

Exhortation for Baptism

Why should a person get baptised?

- Jesus gave us this example and commanded us to do it
- It is the example we see from the book of Acts
- It's a way to identify with and publicly testify of what Christ has done in you

Who should get baptised?

- Those who have trusted in Christ and are sure they are born again
- Those who want to be identified with Christ and testify of what God has done in their lives
- Those who want to obey God

When should a person get baptised?

- After you have trusted in Christ and are born again

How should a person get baptised?

- By immersion (going under water, not by sprinkling or pouring water on you)
- In the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20)
- In a way that pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ

Study 5

What is the Lord's Table?

The Lord's Table, also known as Communion and the Lord's Supper, is a beautiful opportunity to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for His people. It is the second of the two ordinances of the Church.

In 1 Corinthians 11 we can note 5 different directions you can look while taking part at the Lord's Table:

1. Look Up to Christ (v23-26)

The Lord's Table is a time of fellowship with God. Christ tells us to do this "in remembrance" of Him. Our thoughts are to be fixed on Jesus Christ and who He is. The Lord's Table is for Christians, as you can only remember someone you know. Notice that there is nothing in this passage about the Lord's Table making you a Christian or saving you; rather, it is because you are a Christian that you should do these things.

2. Look Back to the Cross (v24-26)

Specifically, during this time, we are to focus on what Jesus Christ did for us. We are to meditate on His sacrifice for our sins; His body that was broken for us is symbolized by the broken bread. His blood that was shed for us is symbolized by the outpoured grape juice. We can think upon the weight of sin and the wrath of God He took on our behalf. Sorrow and joy can mingle at such thoughts.

3. Look Forward to the Coming (v26)

We are to partake of the Lord's Table "till He come". As we meditate upon the sacrifice of Christ, we can also meditate upon the fact that He has risen again, that He prays for us now and that He will come again for us one day.

4. Look Within to the Conscience (v27-32)

We are commanded to examine ourselves before we partake of the symbols. The Lord's Table is a good opportunity to search through your life over the week that has gone by to consider any sinful words, thoughts or deeds that you have not yet repented of. It is also a good time to resolve to reconcile with anyone you have a broken relationship with. Paul warns the church at Corinth that some of their people were sick and had died because they partook of the Lord's Table without first dealing with unconfessed sin and mending broken relationships.

5. Look Around to the Church (v20-22, 33-34)

Paul commands the church to consider each other, to be loving and gracious toward one another, to wait for each other. As you meditate upon all that Christ has done for you it is good to consider what you, out of an expression of your love for Him, can do for those around you in the church.

Study 6

What is Worship?

Individual Worship

Christ explained that we must worship in _____ and in _____ [John 4:23-24]

The Pharisees were worshipping with their _____ but not their _____ [Matthew 15:8-9]

Before God wants our _____ deeds He wants our _____ [Psalm 51:16-19]

Worship includes _____ and _____ [James 1:27]

We worship God by giving Him our _____ [Romans 12:1]

We worship God by _____ and _____ [Hebrews 13:15]

We can live in such a way in which everything we do can _____ God [1Corinthians 10:31]

Good relationships with _____ is necessary for worshipping God [Matthew 5:23-24]

Corporate Worship

Christ is present in a unique way when _____ [Matthew 18:20]

We worship together by _____, _____ and _____ [Ephesians 5:19-21]

Worship also includes _____, _____ and _____ [1Timothy 4:13]

Strange Fire

Aaron's two sons offered _____ on the altar [Leviticus 10:1]

They were not supposed to _____ [Exodus 30:9, 34-36]

This deed led to their _____ [Leviticus 10:2]

Uzza placed his hand on the _____ [1Chronicles 13:6-9]

The _____ were to carry it but not _____ it [Numbers 4:15]

This deed led to his _____ [1Chronicles 13:10]

King Uzziah attempted to _____ [2Chronicles 26:16-17]

Only the _____ were to do this [2Chronicles 26:18]

This led to him becoming a _____ [2Chronicles 26:19-21]

Study 7

What is Giving?

The Origin of the Tithe (Tenth)

Genesis 14:18-20 is the first mention of tithing in the Bible. Who gave tithes to who?

_____ to _____ (this man is a picture of Christ)

Genesis 28:20-22 is the second mention of tithing. Who gave tithes to who?

_____ to _____

Before God gave Israel the law in Exodus, men were already tithing their possessions.

Quality not Quantity

[Mark 12:41-44]

The rich looked like they were casting in a lot, but the truth was they were casting in very little:

Why were these rich men giving? _____ [v38-40]

What were they giving out of? _____ [v44]

Jesus noticed someone that no-one else took note of – the poor widow:

What did she give? _____ [v42, 44]

Who gave more? _____ [v43]

Can't Afford to Give

[2Corinthians 8:1-3]

The Macedonians were in a great _____ and deep _____

Yet they gave to their _____ and even beyond their _____

Read also 2Corinthians 11:9 and Philippians 4:14-17.

What do we Give and to Who?

[2Corinthians 9:6-7]

He who gives _____ / _____ will reap _____ / _____

How are we to give? _____. What does God love? _____

When are we to set aside? _____ [1Corinthians 16:2]

How much are we to set aside? _____ [1Corinthians 16:2]

- 10% to your local church is a good **start**
- You could also give to the missionary fund or toward another fund or cause in the church.
- Further Reading: Acts 4:32-37

Study 8

What is Evangelism?

Speak [The Method]

[Romans 10:13-14, 17]

Who shall be saved? _____

What do people need to do before they can call on Him? _____

How do people get the opportunity to believe? _____

How will they hear? _____

What did Christ command His disciples to do? _____ [Mark 16:15]

How did the early church share the gospel? _____ [Acts 4:20, 6:10, 8:35, 10:34]

Truth [The Message]

What is our ultimate authority of truth? _____ [John 17:17]

According to Scripture, what constitutes the gospel? _____ [1 Corinthians 15:1-5]

- Christ _____ according to the scriptures;
- And that _____, and
- that _____ according to the scriptures:

What did Paul reason to Felix about? _____ [Acts 24:25]

- _____ - we need to explain the need for righteousness
- _____ - we need to explain the reality of sin in each person
- _____ - we need to explain that there will be eternal consequences

Anything other than the true gospel is _____ [Galatians 1:7-9]

_____ won't profit in the day of wrath. _____ delivers from death. [Proverbs 11:4]

Love [The Manner]

What attitude should we have? _____ [2 Timothy 2:24-25]

How should we explain our hope? _____ [1 Peter 3:15]

Glory [The Motive]

Who is worthy to receive glory and honour and power? _____ [Revelation 4:11, 5:9]

Study 9

What is Discipleship?

Multiplication or Addition

What are the 3 points of the Great Commission? [Matthew 28:19-20]

Example - Step One

Paul asked the Thessalonians to _____ his _____ [2 Thessalonians 3:9]

He asked the Corinthians to _____ as he _____ [1 Corinthians 11:1]

He asked the Philippians to _____ and _____ [Philippians 3:17]

Exhortation - Step Two

We are supposed to _____ one another _____ [Hebrews 3:13]

We are able to _____ one another to _____ [Hebrews 10:24]

We can _____ and _____ each other [1 Thessalonians 5:11]

Explanation - Step Three

Timothy was required to _____ [2 Timothy 2:15]

Eventually those who learn are also supposed to _____ [Hebrews 5:12]

We are to treat those we teach with _____ [1 Thessalonians 2:7]

Study 10

What is Missions?

A Global Mission

Where were the disciples to go? _____ [Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8]

Who was the message for? _____

A Mutual Project

List the two types of people in Ezra 1:1-6 and how they were involved in rebuilding the temple.

Send [Home Base Ministry]

How did the church at Philippi help Paul in his mission work?

- _____ [Philippians 1:19]
_____ [Philippians 2:25-30]
_____ [Philippians 4:10-16]

What two things does Paul ask for prayer for in 2Thessalonians 3:1-2?

- _____ [see also Romans 15:30-32, Philemon 1:22, Hebrews 13:18-19]
_____ [see also Ephesians 6:19, Colossians 4:3-4]

What does Christ command us to pray for? _____ [Matthew 9:37-38]

Go [Foreign Base Ministry]

Who anointed Paul as Apostle? _____ [Acts 9:15]

What was Paul doing in Antioch? _____ [Acts 13:1-2a]

Who sent Paul out? _____ [Acts 13:2b-4]

Disobey

What did Christ have? _____ [Matthew 28:18]

If we love Christ what will we do? _____ [John 14:15]

What are we not to do? _____ [Luke 6:46]