

A How to study the Bible:

❖ Time

- When is the best time to study the Bible? We must analyze our answer taking into account two factors: the time factor and the quality factor.
- We will obviously get more benefit from setting aside an hour in our schedule for Bible study than from dedicating only five minutes.
- However, the time we dedicate to study cannot be limited to superficial reading. This is where our motivation comes into play. Why do I read the Bible? Am I merely seeking knowledge, or do I have a deep desire to know more about God?
- We will get the most out of our Bible study when it becomes a time to be with God. (Jer. 29:13), and delight in Him (Ps. 37:4); when we look in its pages for God's special message for us.

❖ The place

- When Jesus wanted a special moment of communion with God, he would get up early and look for a quiet place (Mark 1:35). This can be applied to both prayer and Bible study.
- It's difficult to concentrate on studying in a noisy or busy place. It's easier to do so in a comfortable, quiet, and secluded spot.
- The first or last hours of the day, when there is more silence, can be times when we can more easily focus our thoughts on God.
- Once we have found the right time and place, let's make this a regular activity. Perhaps some special circumstance will cause us to miss that time, but let's not let too much time pass without our daily Bible study.

❖ The technique

- An in-depth study of the Bible consists of four sections
 - (1) Pray
 - (a) Invite the Holy Spirit to be your guide in your studies
 - (b) He will touch your heart and mind so that you understand what you read
 - (2) Reading and understanding [proposed technique]
 - (a) Choose a verse or passage from the Bible
 - (b) Write it down to help you etch it into your mind
 - (c) Underline the key ideas
 - (d) Write down the thoughts that inspire those key ideas
 - (3) Pray
 - (a) Ask God to help you apply the ideas you have learned
 - (4) Share
 - (a) Think about who you could share what you've learned with
- Other Bible study techniques
 - (1) Compare verse with verse (Is. 28:10)
 - (2) Study chapters or entire books
 - (3) Studying a topic or word with the help of a concordance
 - (4) Consult biblical commentaries or dictionaries
 - (5) Read in parallel with passages from the "Conflict of the Ages" series by Ellen White

B Benefits of studying the Bible:

❖ The benefit of sharing it

- You are asked to prepare a sermon for Saturday's service. You dedicate special time to prayerfully study a topic the Holy Spirit has inspired you to choose. On Saturday, you preach with power. Who stands to benefit most from this sermon?
- A Bible study that we share with others – whether in a sermon or on a personal level – has a double benefit.
- First, we benefit from what we have learned. Second, the people with whom we share this knowledge benefit and are encouraged to delve deeper into that knowledge.
- In both cases, the relationship with God is strengthened and deepened. Such is the power of God's Word, which “will not return to me empty” (Isaiah 55:11).

❖ The benefit of eating it

- We must eat the Word of God (Jeremiah 15:16)! Although it is sweeter than honey, we should not eat it literally (Psalm 119:103). Reading the Bible is food for the soul, a true refreshment that heals our spirit and transforms our character.
- And what's more, this nourishment is free (Isaiah 55:1)! We simply need to draw near and listen to what God tells us through the Bible (Isaiah 55:3). The more time we spend delving into its pages, the more nourishment we will receive, and the more blessings we will obtain.