

70s

Bible Study Guide

A Practical Guide on How to

STUDY THE BIBLE

for Yourself and With Others

7Cs Bible Study Method

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Content

Prayerfully read the Bible passage.

Context

Examine the passage surroundings.

Crux

Find the big idea of the passage.

Christ

See how the passage points to Jesus.

Command

Listen to the passage's imperatives.

Call

Pray the passage back to God

Community

Talk about the passage with others.

CONTENT

Prayerfully read the Bible passage.

**BEFORE YOU READ THE BIBLE,
ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ...**

GUARD you from Satan and your own heart.
(*Mark 4:14-15; Jeremiah 17:9*)

GUIDE you in your understanding of His Word, that your understanding would not just be your interpretation but His intended meaning.
(*Isaiah 55:8*)

GIVE you knowledge and truth from His Word so you may be a more useful servant in His Kingdom.
(*Psalms 1; 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*)

GRANT you wisdom from above as you read.
(*Proverbs 2:1-6; James 1:5, 3:15*)

GLORIFY Himself as you read in a way that will honor Him instead of trying to make the Bible about you.
(*Colossians 1:15-20*)

Taken, in part, from Chapter 11 of *Bible 101: For Students*

CONTEXT

Examine the passage surroundings.

**WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE,
THINK ABOUT IT IN REFERENCE TO ...**

HISTORY Who wrote the passage? To whom was it written? What was the reason for writing?

THE STORY LINE What happened right before this passage? What will happen right after it? How does it move the story forward?

THE COVENANT At what point in redemptive history is the passage happening? How does that shape how we read it and understand it?

THE CANON How does the passage fit into the larger story of the Bible? What comparisons or contrasts come to mind from the corresponding testament?

Taken, in part, from Chapter 2 of *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church*

CRUX

Find the big idea of the passage.

**WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE,
LOOK FOR CLUES LIKE ...**

REPETITION Are things in the passage repeated or restated? Are things in the passage repeated or restated? (*Philippians 3:12-14, James 2:14-26*)

OPENERS AND CLOSERS Does the introduction or conclusion to the section point to a main idea that runs through the passage? (*1 Samuel 22, Mark 14:1-11*)

LINKING WORDS Are there key words that connect different ideas or that draw your attention to something in the passage? (*Therefore, for, so, but, if ... then*)

PURPOSE STATEMENTS Does the author actually tell you why he is writing the passage? (*Proverbs 1:2; 1 John 2:1, Jude 1:3*)

FALLEN CONDITION What sinful condition is the Holy Spirit addressing in this passage? (*Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 3:16*)

Taken, in part, from Chapter 3 of *Bible Study: A Student's Guide*

CHRIST

See how the passage points to Jesus.

**WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE,
DOES THE PASSAGE POINT TO JESUS BY ...**

PROPHECY Does the passage tell who Jesus *will* be or what Jesus *will* do? Remember some prophecies have multiple fulfillments. (*Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22; Isaiah 9:6*)

TYPES Does an actual person, event or thing find its greater meaning in the gospel of Jesus? (*Moses, the Exodus, Sacrifices*)

NEEDS Does the absence of God or the failure of others show us our need for someone better who will do something better? (*Adam, David, Jonah*)

MENTIONING Does the passage actually use language that specifically talks about Jesus? How does this help us know Him better? (*Christophanies, the Gospels, the Epistles*)

Taken, in part, from Chapter 7 of *Bible Study: A Student's Guide*

COMMAND

Listen to the passage's imperatives.

**WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE,
HEAR & OBEY WHAT IT SAYS TO DO ...**

EXPLICITLY Does the passage actually say to do something? If so, how does that apply to your context? (*Joshua 1:2 vs 1:8; Philippians 2:2 vs 4:2*)

IMPLICITLY Does that passage communicate that something should be done even if it doesn't necessarily say to do it? (*Psalms 1:1-2, Proverbs 12:15, Luke 7:9*)

BY EXAMPLE Does the passage give an example of a good thing that should be done? Is this an example that I should follow, or is it one that Christ accomplished? (*Genesis 15:6, 1 Samuel 17:49, Mark 9:24*)

NEGATIVELY Does the passage give an example of a bad thing that should NOT be done? (*Judges, Jonah, Acts 5:2*)

MINDFULLY Don't forget the indicatives of the passage! Remember the *Whys* and the *Hows* by which we do the *Whats*.

Taken, in part, from Chapter 8 of *Christ-Centered Preaching*

CALL

Pray the passage back to God.

**AFTER YOU READ THE BIBLE,
PRAY IT BACK TO GOD THROUGH ...**

RECITATION The Bible contains many prayers that we can simply recite back to God in prayer. (*Psalms 51, Matthew 6:9-13*)

PERSONALIZATION At times we must alter the tenses of the scripture to pray them for ourselves or others. (*Psalms 27, Philippians 1:9-11*)

INSPIRATION As we study a passage, a person or situation may come to mind. The passage may not directly apply, but we can nonetheless pray that the passage *would* apply! (*Psalms 30:3, Philippians 1:6*)

IMITATION As we pray the scriptures back to God, our prayers will rightly be shaped by the Bible. Our prayers will imitate the Bible in both the subject and the language of our prayers. (*Psalms 74; Ephesians 1:15-23*)

For more on this subject look at Donald Whitney's *Praying the Bible*

COMMUNITY

Talk about the passage with others.

**AFTER YOU HAVE READ THE BIBLE,
DISCUSS WHAT YOU LEARN WITH ...**

MORE MATURE CHRISTIANS The Lord has given us many guides in the faith who can help us to better understand His Word. The Holy Spirit uses them to guard us from error and guide us into truth.
(Parents, Pastors, Youth Workers)

CHRISTIAN PEERS The Bible is sufficient; you are not. None of us will understand the Bible perfectly. We can and should benefit from the insight of others.
(Siblings, Friends, Youth Group)

YOUNGER CHRISTIANS In humility, we can help others learn what we have learned. This does NOT have to be in an official teaching capacity! *(Siblings, Sunday School class)*

NON-CHRISTIANS The Holy Spirit uses His Word to speak to and change the hearts of people like nothing else. Studying the Bible with someone may be the greatest evangelical tool that we have! *(Relatives, Classmates, Neighbors)*

7Cs

Bible Passage Examples

7Cs

Bible Passage Examples

How to Use These Examples

These examples walk through well-known Bible passages that often get misinterpreted in Bible Studies. We will read the passage each day and apply one "C" per day for six days. This should prepare us for the seventh "C" as we discuss the passage in community.

The observations here are not exhaustive or final. You will likely see something in the passage not listed here.
That's great!

Old Testament Example

1 Samuel 17

The Story of David and Goliath

New Testament Example

Philippians 4:10-20

I Can Do All Things Through Him

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE

1 Samuel 17

Day 1: Content

"Lord, I pray that, as I read this familiar passage, You would guard me from any errors or false assumptions of the past. Instead, guide me into a true understanding of Your Word and how I should live in light of it. May all this be done for Your glory. Amen."

Day 2: Context

History - 1 Samuel was written as an historical account to remind the people of Israel of their shortcomings and whet their appetites for the coming of the Kingdom.

Story - In chapter 16, David has been anointed King, but he's still a nobody in the world's eye. In the later parts of 1 Samuel, David will be in personal service to King Saul. This passage is what grabs his attention.

Covenant - This takes place within the Old Covenant (do this and live/don't do this and die) of the people of Israel. Their representative king is not being faithful to the covenant.

Canon - David marks a new beginning for the people of Israel. Jesus is called the Son of David and eventually will rule as part of his lineage, but right now, David is just a shepherd boy.

Day 3: Crux

Repetition - Philistine x40; David x36; Saul x18; Israel x16; God/the Lord x12; serve x8; bronze x5; fear (of some kind) x5; deliver x4; Gath x4

Openers & Closers - This passage opens with the current king having a problem he can't face, and ends with him being delivered by the future king.

Linking Words - Goliath and Saul both set up conditional rewards/consequences. It becomes an issue of defeat & servitude or deliverance & marriage.

Purpose Statement - "This day the Lord will deliver ... that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's."

Fallen Condition - This passage addresses the sins of fear, lack of trust and serving God's enemies.

Day 4: Christ

Prophecy - "the Lord will deliver"

Type - David acts as a type of Jesus in many and significant ways.

Needs - Though David acts faithfully, he does not act finally. The Philistines continue to be a problem for years to come. Jesus has delivered His people from the power of sin and will one day deliver them from the problem of sin altogether.

Mentioning - Christ is not mentioned by name or by title in this passage.

Day 5: Command

Explicit - David tells Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him."

Implicit - We should "know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear."

By Example - David is an example of Christ in his victory, but he is an example for us in his faith.

Negatively - The Philistines, the Israelites and Saul all serve as negative examples.

Mindfully - Why are we not to fear? "Your servant [as a type of Jesus] will go and fight." How are we to have victory? "The Lord saves."

Day 6: Call

"Lord, you have delivered me from the power of sin and death through Jesus. May I trust that the battle belongs to You and not fear when I am faced with trials. Instead, may I place my faith squarely in You and commit to serving You and You alone, despite how physical circumstances appear. May I know that the Lord saves!"

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE

Philippians 4:10-20

Day 1: Content

"Lord, as I read Your Word, I ask that Your Holy Spirit would close my eyes to any falsehood and open them to Your truth. May I not be satisfied with trite and feel-good answers that require nothing, but may I find gospel truth no matter the cost. Amen."

Day 2: Context

History - Philippians is an encouraging letter from Paul to the church in Philippi containing rich teachings about Christ and provides much comfort to Christians.

Story - In the previous section, Paul exhorts the readers to peaceful fellowship, gentle rejoicing and Christ-ward thoughts. The next section is the farewell, so this passage closes the thoughts.

Covenant - This takes place within the New Covenant (Christ did this because we could not & He died that we might live). The Philippians are honoring that covenant but need some more encouragement in so doing.

Canon - This passage ties together the sacrifices of the Old Covenant, Christ's sacrifice in the New Testament and our "sacrifices" today. The benefits of Christ's sacrifice are given here!

Day 3: Cruc

Repetition - need x4, help (of some kind) x9

Openers & Closers - Paul begins by rejoicing in the Lord because of His provision from the Philippians. He ends by glorying in God because of His provision to the Philippians.

Linking Words - There are connections made between need & contentment, the provision of God & provision through others, giving to others & blessings from God.

Purpose Statement - As misunderstood as they have been, verses 13 and 19 do rightly grab our attention. "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Fallen Condition - This passage addresses the sins of discontentment and selfishness.

Day 4: Christ

Prophecy - "God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus"

Type - In this passage we see an anti-type. Genesis 8:21 points to the fragrant offering mentioned here in v. 18.

Needs - The Philippians do provide for Paul when he is in need, but at times they did not have opportunity. Christ is always willing and able to meet our greatest needs. (Still it should be noted that this passages teaches us contentment while our physical needs go unmet.)

Mentioning - The riches, according to which God will meet all of our needs, are found in Jesus Christ.

Day 5: Command

Explicit - There is no explicit command in this passage. However, it is imperative that we believe the truths expressed herein.

Implicit - We should “[learn] in whatever situation [we are] to be content” and to “[rejoice] in the Lord greatly” when He provides for us. However, we should recognize that the main needs He provides are Spiritual and are “in Jesus Christ.”

By Example - Both Paul and the Philippians serve as good examples for us. Paul was content in whatever circumstance. The Philippians were concerned and gave as they had opportunity.

Negatively - We see that “no church entered into partnership with [Paul] in giving and receiving.”

Mindfully - We can be content in our physical circumstances, knowing that Christ has supplied our spiritual needs. We should give freely to others because Christ has given freely to us. We can be assured that He is able to meet our physical needs and will reward our physical giving because of the riches in Christ Jesus.

Day 6: Call

“Lord, I rejoice in You greatly that You always provide for my needs. May I learn, in whatever situation I am, to be content, knowing that I can do all things through You who strengthen me. May I likewise strengthen others, making an acceptable sacrifice that You, our God and Father, may be glorified forever and ever. Amen.”

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