

CHAPTER TEN

DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- C Write the Key Verse from memory.
- C List the steps of the devotional method of Bible study.
- C Do a devotional Bible study.

KEY VERSE:

Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.
(Psalm 119:148)

INTRODUCTION

The first method of Bible study which you will learn is called the devotional method. This chapter defines, explains, and presents an example of a devotional Bible study. The "For Further Study" section provides an opportunity to apply what you have learned by actually doing a devotional study.

THE METHOD DEFINED

The devotional method gets its name from the word "devotion" which means "dedication, consecration, worship, and sincere attachment to a cause or person." The devotional method of Bible study increases dedication and consecration to God. It leads to worship and a deeper personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

This method involves not only study of God's Word but also the application of its truths. It is against this method that Satan raises his greatest opposition. Satan is not concerned about study just to gain knowledge. He is vitally concerned when Bible study results in application which brings positive changes in your spiritual life. It is not enough to just be "hearers of the Word." A person who is a hearer of the Word is one who studies God's Word but never applies the Word to his life:

But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass;

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:22-25)

You will learn many methods of Bible study in this course but each method should result in application. Whether you do a book, chapter, verse, word, or any other study, you should always apply what you learn to your life and ministry.

THE METHOD EXPLAINED

Use the form provided in the "For Further Study" section of this lesson to do your devotional study. Here are the steps for doing the study:

STEP ONE: RECORD PASSAGE INFORMATION

Record the name of the book in which the passage you are studying is found. Then record the chapter and verse numbers you have selected to study.

STEP TWO: IDENTIFY THE SUBJECT

Read the portion of Scripture which you have selected to study. Select a title that summarizes the subject and record it on your chart.

STEP THREE: IDENTIFY THE KEY VERSE

Which verse provides the best summary of the Scripture portion you are studying? Write the verse and reference on your chart.

STEP FOUR: SUMMARIZE

In your own words, summarize what the portion of Scriptures teaches.

1. Outline the main points covered.
2. Use a chart to summarize the passage.
3. Make a brief summary statement.

4. Paraphrase the passage. Paraphrasing is when you take a verse and summarize it in your own words. Follow the text, but put it in the language of today. (See the example section of this chapter).

STEP FIVE: MEDITATE

It is important to read and study the Bible but you must also learn to meditate on God's Word. The word "meditate" means to think, dwell on, and ponder. After you select a Bible portion to study, identify its subject and key verse, and summarize its teachings, then meditate on the passage.

God told Joshua that meditating on His Word was the key to success:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

Read slowly through the passage. Read it aloud. Imagine the Lord speaking to you personally with this passage. Consider what it says to you personally by using some of the questions suggested under Step Six in this lesson.

One important way to meditate on the Word is to memorize it. When you memorize portions you are able to recall them at any time and think about them. The key verse you select is a good portion to memorize. Make some note cards as illustrated below. Write the verse on one side of the card. Write the reference where the verse is found on the other side of the card:

Side One:

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Side Two:

Psalm 119:11

Read the verse several times aloud and then try to repeat it without looking at the card. After you say the verse check your card to see if you have said it correctly. Look at the reference side of the card and try to say the verse. Look at the verse side of the card and try to remember the reference. Save your Scripture memory cards and continue to review and meditate on them.

STEP SIX: MAKE APPLICATION

Now you are ready to apply what you have learned during meditation. Application is when you personally apply to your life and ministry the truths you have learned. Sometimes you cannot immediately apply everything you learn, but begin to apply all you can. God will help you apply the truth of His Word even if it means you must take one small step at a time in the process of application.

The following questions will help you apply God's Word to your life:

Example to follow:

Is there an example to follow in this portion of Scripture?

Error to avoid:

Is there an error or sin which should be avoided?

Duty to perform:

Does this portion of Scripture call for action. Are you told to do something? If so, what action are you to take?

Promise to claim:

Is there a promise in this passage which you can claim?

Relationship to develop:

What does this passage teach about your relationship with God through Jesus Christ? What does it teach about God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit? What does it teach about your relationship with others in your family, community, church congregation, and the world. What does it teach about your relationship with yourself?

Changes to make:

What changes should you make in your life in view of what you have learned in this

Scripture portion? Be specific.

Prayer to pray:

Pray a personal prayer regarding this passage. Ask God to help you apply the truths you have learned. Prayer personalizes the principles taught in God's Word. You may even want to write out your prayer as in the example provided in this chapter.

EXAMPLE OF THE DEVOTIONAL METHOD

STEP ONE: RECORD PASSAGE INFORMATION

Book: Galatians
Chapter: 5
Verses: 16-25

STEP TWO: IDENTIFY THE SUBJECT

Subject: Works of the Flesh and Fruit of the Spirit

STEP THREE: IDENTIFY THE KEY VERSE

Key Verse: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)

STEP FOUR: SUMMARIZE

1. The following is an example of an outline summary:

WORKS OF THE FLESH AND FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- I. The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. Those who live in the flesh will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Fleshly works include:
 - A. Adultery
 - B. Fornication
 - C. Uncleaness
 - D. Lasciviousness
 - E. Idolatry
 - F. Witchcraft
 - G. Hatred
 - H. Variance
 - I. Emulations

- J. Wrath
- K. Strife
- L. Seditions
- M. Heresies
- N. Envyings
- O. Murders
- P. Drunkenness
- Q. Revellings

II. The fruit of the Holy Spirit which God desires to give us contrasts the works of the flesh:

- A. Love
- B. Joy
- C. Peace
- D. Longsuffering
- E. Gentleness
- F. Goodness
- G. Faith
- H. Meekness
- I. Temperance

III. We are to:

- A. Walk in the spirit (verse 16,25)
- B. Be led of the spirit (verse 18)
- C. Live in the spirit (verse 25)

2. The following is an example of a summarizing chart:

WORKS OF THE FLESH AND FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
Galatians 5:16-25

Works of the Flesh
(Fulfilling Lusts)

Adultery
Fornication
Uncleanness
Lasciviousness
Idolatry
Witchcraft
Hatred
Variance
Emulations
Wrath
Strife
Seditions
Heresies
Envyings
Murders
Drunkenness
Revellings

Fruit of the Spirit
(Living in the Spirit)

Love
Joy
Peace
Longsuffering
Gentleness
Goodness
Faith
Meekness
Temperance

3. Here is an example of a summary statement:

This passage presents two contrasts: The lusts of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit. If we belong to Jesus, we are to crucify the lusts of the flesh and live, walk, and be led by the Holy Spirit. The works of the flesh are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

4. Here is an example of a paraphrase of Galatians 5:24-25:

"Those who belong to Christ have destroyed the desires, loves, and lusts of

the flesh. If we claim that the Holy Spirit lives in us, then we should act like it!"

STEP FIVE: MEDITATE

Verses to memorize and meditate on: Verses 16-18 and 25-26. Also memorize the list of spiritual fruit which God wants to develop in my life. Meditate and study on the meaning of each fruit of the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be gentle, good, meek, temperate, etc?

STEP SIX: MAKE APPLICATION

Example to follow: Developing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Error to avoid: Works of the flesh.

Duty to perform:

Walk in the Spirit	(verses 16,25)
Be led of the Spirit	(verse 18)
Live in the Spirit	(verse 25)

Promise to claim: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Verse 16.

Relationships to develop: My relationships with others should demonstrate love, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness. I need to develop joy, peace, goodness, faith, and temperance in every area of my life. I learned that God wants my relationship to Him to be based on holiness in conduct. If I truly belong to Christ it will affect my relationship to others, myself, and God.

Changes to make: The three areas I need most to change:

Temperance:	Control my appetite. Develop self control and discipline.
Faith:	Be more believing of God's promises.
Love:	Show love to those around me who are unlovable.

Prayer to pray:

Dear Heavenly Father: Help me walk in your Spirit, be led of your Spirit, and live each moment in your Spirit. Cleanse my life from the works of the flesh. Help me to crucify worldly desires. Develop the beautiful fruit of the Holy Spirit in me.

In Jesus name, amen.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. What is the devotional method of Bible study?

3. List the six steps of the devotional method.

4. What does it mean to be a "doer of the Word" and not a "hearer" only? Give a Scripture reference to support your answer.

5. Why does Satan fight the use of the devotional method of Bible study?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study Philippians 4:4-9 using the devotional method of Bible study. Use this form to do this and other devotional Bible studies.

DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY

Book: Chapter: Verses: Subject:

Key Verse:

Summary:

Meditation:

Application:

Example to follow:

Error to avoid:

Duty to perform:

Promise to claim:

Relationship to develop:

Changes to make:

Prayer to pray:

ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

CHAPTER ONE:

1. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
2. The word "Bible" means "the books."
3. The word "Scripture" means "sacred writings."
4. Old Testament and New Testament.
5. 66.
6. Law, history, poetry, prophecy.
7. Gospels, history, letters, prophecy.
8. The word "testament" means "covenant."
9. For doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
10. The Bible contains no contradictions and it is united in its major theme.
11. The Bible has variety.
12. a. T; b. T; c. F; d. F; e. F
13. Jesus. Luke 24:44-48.

CHAPTER TWO:

1. Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to thy Word. (Psalm 119:169)
2. 39

3. 27
4. If you just read a chapter here and there you fail to understand how the Bible fits together. You must read the Bible in an orderly way if you are to understand its content.
5.
 - Read daily.
 - Read selectively.
 - Read prayerfully.
 - Read systematically.

CHAPTER THREE:

1. The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it. (Psalm 68:11)
2. A version is a Bible written in a language different from the languages in which God's Word was originally written.
3. A translation is a word by word translation of the Greek, Hebrew, and Aramic words. A paraphrase does not translate word for word. It is translated thought by thought.
4. The King James version.
5. Because no two languages are exactly alike so differences occur when translation is done.
6. Hebrew, Aramic, and Greek.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. (John 8:47)
2. Because they try to read it the same way they do any other book.
3. Something you must do before you can do something else.
4. Knowing God and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.
5. Believers who are called as teachers. The Holy Spirit.

6. The Holy Spirit.
7. The milk is the simple truths of the Word of God.
8. The meat is the deeper spiritual truths of the Bible which are not so easily understood.
9. -Desire the milk.
-Be obedient to God's Word.
-Search for the meat.
10. -Set a special time each day to study.
-Select a special place to study.
-Start each study session with prayer.

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. Thou through thy commandments has made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. (Psalm 119:98-100)
2. -To locate all the Bible references to a word.
-To locate a specific Bible text.
-To find the meaning of a word.
3. 4, 2, 6, 1, 3, 5

CHAPTER SIX:

1. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15)
2. It means you must understand what is being said to whom. You must also interpret and apply the meaning correctly.
3. The verbal inspiration of the Bible means every word in the original manuscripts was inspired by God.
4. The plenary inspiration of the Bible means the full inspiration of all Scripture as opposed to partial inspiration. Every portion of the Bible is inspired.
5. The rules and explanations are as follows:

1. The rule of divine authority. We accept the Bible as the final authority because it is inspired by God.
2. The rule of literal interpretation. The Bible means exactly what it says.
3. The rule of contextual consideration. Each verse must be studied in relation to its context.
4. The rule of first mention. The first time a word, phrase, object, or incident is mentioned in the Bible, it gives the key to its meaning anywhere else it is used in the Bible.
5. The rule of repetition. When something is repeated in the Bible it deserves special attention as it is very important.
6. The rule of cumulative revelation. The full truth of God's Word on any subject must not be gathered from an isolated passage. The cumulative (total) revelation of all the Bible says regarding a truth must be considered.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. (Psalm 119:152)
2. k, l, c, d, e, g, f, j, h, i, b, a
3. When.
4. Biblical archaeology is the study of remains found in Bible lands. It is a science which gains knowledge of Bible times from the study of existing remains of their civilizations.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live. (Psalm 119:144)
2. The second main point should not come under point I. It should be a separate point and indicated by the Roman numerals II. Review the instructions for outlining given in this chapter.

3. Horizontally and vertically.
4. Marking is a way to emphasize key Bible passages. You underline selected verses or use symbols in the margins.

CHAPTER NINE:

1. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous thing out of thy law. (Psalm 119:18)
2. See the symbols listed in Chapter Nine.
3. See the purposes listed in Chapter Nine.
4. Everyone who claims to speak God's Word is not really doing so. There are false teachers.
5. God will add to them the plagues written in the Word. Revelation 22:18-19
6. Their part will be taken out of God's book of life and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in the Word. Revelation 22:18-19.
7. God.
8. God's words.
9. Milk and the meat.
10. Moses.

CHAPTER TEN:

1. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy Word. (Psalm 119:148)
2. This method emphasizes application of knowledge to life and ministry. It results in increased devotion to God.
3.

-Record passage information -Identify the key verse -Meditate	-Identify the subject -Summarize -Make application
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4. It is not enough just to hear the Word. You must also apply the Word in your life.
James 1:22-25
5. Satan fights the use of this method because he is concerned when Bible study results in application which brings positive change in spiritual life.

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. (Psalm 119:9)
2. 2, 1
3.
 - Do an initial survey
 - Create a book study chart
 - Create an outline
4.
 - Title of the book
 - Theme
 - Author
 - To whom the book was written
 - Purpose
 - Basic life and ministry principle

CHAPTER TWELVE:

1. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (Psalm 119:11)
2. Study of the Bible by chapters.
3.
 - Select a chapter title.
 - Mark paragraph divisions.
 - Create a chapter study chart.
 - Create a chapter outline.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

1. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (Psalm 119:130)
2.
 - Do a chapter study
 - Observe details of the paragraph

- Create a paragraph study chart
- Create a paragraph study outline

3. 3, 2, 4, 1
4. 4, 5, 1, 2, 3
5. 3, 2, 4, 1

CHAPTER FOURTEEN:

1. My tongue shall speak of thy Word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. (Psalm 119:172)
2. Context.
3.
 - Study the verse within its context
 - Study related verses
 - Create a verse study chart
 - Create a verse study outline

CHAPTER FIFTEEN:

1. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)
2.
 - Select the word.
 - Study the word within its context.
 - Determine the meaning.
 - Summarize your study.
3. A key word is one which is basic to the meaning of the verse. It is an important word. Sometimes it is a word difficult to understand or it is repeated for special emphasis.
4. The word "temperance" would be a good subject for word study. The other words are not key words.
5. A concordance and Bible word study book.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN:

1. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I

esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.
(Psalm 119:127-128)

2. The topical method focuses on a selected subject. The goal of the study is to discover all the Bible teaches on the subject.
3.
 - Select a topic.
 - Select the portion of Scripture.
 - Gather the information.
 - Summarize the information.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN :

1. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition . . .(I Corinthians 10:11)
2. The biographical method focuses on the lives of Bible personalities. By studying their lives we learn from their experiences.
3.
 - Select the person to be studied.
 - Gather the information.
 - Analyze The Information.
 - Apply What You Have Learned.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN:

1. 7, 8, 5, 3, 4, 2, 1, 6, 9, 10
2. Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore doth my soul keep them. (Psalm 119:129)
3. The theological method is the study of basic Bible doctrines about God. The method includes collecting, comparing, and organizing doctrinal statements.
4.
 - Select the topic of study.
 - Define the doctrine selected.
 - Select the Bible portion to be studied.
 - Gather information on the doctrine.
 - Summarize the information you gather.
5. A "doctrine" is a group of teachings about a certain subject. It contains all the Bible teaches on a selected subject.

CHAPTER NINETEEN:

1. Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments. (Psalm 119:164)
2. b, c, a
3. c, a, b, d
4. Synonymous.
5. Antithetic.
6. Synthetic.
7. Emblematic.

CHAPTER TWENTY:

1. And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning me. (Luke 24:44)
2.
 - To authenticate God's message.
 - To confirm God's messenger.
 - To instruct believers.
3. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for study. Prophecy presents a proper perspective of past, present, and future events in the plan of God. Understanding God's future plan prevents deception by Satan. A special blessing is pronounced on those who study it.
4.
 - Recognize Jesus is the basic theme of prophecy.
 - Realize that in many cases the Bible interprets itself.
 - Understand the rule of double reference.
 - Understand prophetic perspective.
 - Realize that prophecy is conditional in nature.
5. God.
6. Prophecy means to speak forth under the inspiration of God.

7. -A message of inspiration from God.
 -Prediction of future events in God's plan.
 -An interpretation for man of the acts of God.
8. The spoken word and acted prophecy.
9. Genesis 3:15. It is the promise of a Messiah.
10. See the ways of identifying false prophets discussed in Chapter Twenty.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE:

1. For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. (Hebrews 10:1)
2. The typological method is the study of a person, place, event, or thing as a type of something else. Types give an advance view of what is to come in God's future plan. Although the type is important in itself, it has an even greater significance in the future person or event which it represents.
3. Shadow, figure, pattern.
4. -Persons
 -Places
 -Events
 -Material things
5. Joseph.
6. Jesus Christ.