

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- C Write the Key Verses from memory.
- C Explain the topical method of Bible study.
- C Do a topical Bible study.

KEY VERSES:

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)

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the topical method of Bible study. The method is defined and explained and an example of a topical study is provided. The "For Further Study" section provides an opportunity to apply what you have learned by actually doing a topical Bible study.

THE METHOD DEFINED

The topical method focuses on a selected Biblical subject. The goal of the study is to discover all the Bible teaches on the subject.

THE METHOD EXPLAINED

Here are the steps for doing a topical Bible study:

STEP ONE: SELECT A TOPIC:

You may choose a general subject, for example, all of the miracles in the Bible. You may select a more specific subject such as the miracles performed by Jesus or the miracles

recorded in a certain book of the Bible.

For your first study it is best to limit the topic to a specific subject in one book rather than study a subject in the entire Bible. You may select a topic which pertains to a need in your own life. You might select a topic about which you have been asked and could not answer or a topic which you do not fully understand.

You may want to study topics you can use in counseling others in time of need. For example, you may want to study the topic of death so you will know how to comfort others. Or you may want to study fear so you can help those who are fearful.

STEP TWO: SELECT THE PORTION OF SCRIPTURE:

After choosing a topic, select the portion of Scripture in which you will study this topic. You can study a topic in one book of the Bible, several books, or the entire Bible.

STEP THREE: GATHER THE INFORMATION:

Find all the verses which relate to the topic in the portion of Scripture you select to study. A concordance is helpful but not necessary. For example, if you are studying the miracles of Jesus, read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Record each reference to a miracle performed by Jesus.

STEP FOUR: SUMMARIZE THE INFORMATION:

After you gather all the information on a topic you will probably have a long list of Scriptures. You must now organize these verses to make the subject easily understood.

Study the verses you collected. Identify main points made by the verses. What other verses make this same point? Arrange these verses together, then create a chart or outline to summarize your studies.

Remember: You not only want to learn all the Bible teaches about a specific topic, but you also want to apply what you learn to your own life and ministry.

EXAMPLE OF THE METHOD

STEP ONE: SELECT A TOPIC:

Miracles

STEP TWO: SELECT THE PORTION OF SCRIPTURE:

Miracles in the book of Luke will be studied.

STEP THREE: GATHER THE INFORMATION:

Miracles in Luke: 1:11, 3:21, 4:30, 5:1, 7:11, 9:28, 10:17, 4:33, 13:11, 14:1, 17:11, 22:50

STEP FOUR: SUMMARIZE THE INFORMATION:

Example of an outline summary:

Miracles In The Book Of Luke

- I. Thirty one miracles are recorded in the book of Luke.
- II. People who performed them:
 - A. The Lord Jesus Christ: 4:28-30; 4:31-37; 4:38-39; 4:40-41; 5:1-11; 5:12-15; 5:17-26; 6:6-11; 6:17-20; 7:1-10; 7:11-15; 7:21; 8:2-3; 8:22-25; 8:26-39; 8:41-42, 49, 56; 8:43-48; 9:11-17; 9:37-43; 11:14-23; 13:10-17; 14:1-6; 17:11-19; 18:35-43; 22:50-51; 24:1-7; 24:50-51.
 - B. Others:
 - 1. Angel Gabriel: 1:11-23, 57,59
 - 2. Holy Ghost: 3:21-22
 - 3. God: 9:28-37
 - 4. Disciples: 10:17
- III. Classification of miracles:
 - A. Raising the dead: 7:11-15; 8:41-42, 49, 56; 24:1-7
 - B. Casting out demons: 4:33-37; 8:2-3; 8:26-39; 9:14-23; 9:37-43
 - C. Healing: 4:38-39; 4:40-41; 5:12-16; 5:17-26; 6:6-10; 6:17-20; 7:1-10; 8:43-48; 13:11-17; 14:1-6; 17:11-19; 18:35-43; 22:50-51.
 - D. Over the forces of nature: 5:1-11; 8:22-25; 9:11-17

Example Of A Chart Summary:

A chart summary can also be done on each miracle in the book of Luke. The chart could include the following headings:

Miracle: What the miracle was, reference.

Realm: Was it a miracle over nature, healing, raising of the dead, casting out demons, etc?

Occasion: On what occasion was the miracle performed?

People: What people were involved?

Method: What method was used? Was it the spoken word, a touch, a prayer, etc.?

Results: What were the results of the miracle?

Reactions: What were the reactions of the people who witnessed or were part of the miracle?

An example of the analysis of one miracle is shown on the following chart. Such a study could be done on each miracle in the book of Luke.

Miracles In The Book Of Luke						
Miracle	Realm	Occasion	Peo ple	Means	Results	Reactions
Healing	Physical	At home of Peter's M other-in-law	Peter. and his M other-in-law	Rebuke	Fev er left	Sh e arose, and ministered to others

The previous chart is designed specifically to study miracles and cannot be used for other topics, but it serves as an example of how you can create your own charts to summarize topical Bible studies. Here are some examples of just a few of the life and ministry applications which can be made from this study. Can you think of others?

-Are miracles to be part of the ministry of believers? (See Matthew 16:17-18; John 14:12).

-What can you learn from the way Jesus dealt with sickness, death, and demons to apply in your own ministry?

-What can you learn about the relation of faith and miracles to apply in your ministry?

-What are the results that should follow true miracles of God? How could these results help you distinguish true miracles from deceiving signs of false ministers?

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. Define the topical method of Bible study.

3. What are the four steps for doing a topical Bible study?

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

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Continue studying the topic of miracles. Study all the miracles in the book of Matthew.

Create an outline of your study similar to the example given in this chapter. Use the sample chart given in this lesson to analyze each miracle in the book of Matthew. You might also want to complete the study of miracles in the book of Luke which was started in this chapter. Use the chart to analyze each miracle. The New Testament records other miracles in the books of Mark, John, and Acts. You may want to continue to study the topic of miracles in these books.

You may also want to study miracles in the Old Testament. If you do, the following list will help you locate the Old Testament miracles:

Genesis:	1; 19:26
Exodus:	17
Numbers:	6
Joshua:	3
Judges:	3
I and II Samuel:	3
I and II Kings:	26
Daniel:	2
Joel:	1 (Joel 1:17)
Jonah:	1

Sample chart for use in studying miracles:

Miracles In The Book Of: _____

Miracle	Realm	Occasion	People	Means	Results	Reactions
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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.