

Introduction

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone." (Living Bible)*

I. Hear God's Word

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God." Romans 10:17

II. Read God's Word

"He must read from it everyday of his life." (LB) Deuteronomy 17:19

III. Study God's Word

*"...they accepted the message eagerly and studied the Scriptures every day..."
Acts 17:11 (PH)*

IV. Internalize (Memorize) God's Word

"Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart." Proverbs 7:2-3 (LB)

Benefits of truly studying (and memorizing) scripture

1. It helps you resist temptation
"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin" Psalms 119:11
2. It helps me make wise decisions.
"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalms 119:105
3. It strengthens me when I'm under stress.
"...Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!" Psalms 119:49 (LB)
4. It comforts me when I'm sad.
"Your words are what sustain me...They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me." Jeremiah 15:16 (LB)

V. Meditating on God's Word

"(Those) who are always meditating on His laws...are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit...they never wither..." Psalms 1:2,3 (LB)

VI. Applying God's Word

*"Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice."
James 1:22*

Conclusion: Ask these three questions as you study a passage from the Bible:

- What did it mean to the original hearers?
- What is the underlying timeless principle?
- Where or how could I practice that principle?

Monday - Read *Psalm 19:7-11*. In hundreds of other passages we see the Bible sees itself as "The Word of God!" Here are some important terms to remember as you begin to study the Bible and about the Bible from Bible Dictionaries, Commentaries, and Study Bibles: '**Original Texts**' were written either by the author's own hand or by a scribe under their personal supervision. There are no existing original texts of any books of the bible. **Manuscripts**: Until Gutenberg first printed the Latin Bible in 1456, Bibles were hand copied onto papyrus, parchment, and paper. **Translations**: When the Bible is translated into a different language it is usually translated from the original Hebrew and Greek. Your study will be enriched by reading from many translations...to get help sign up this week for a Bible Study!

Tuesday - The Old Testament time line of the writings of the various books: 1875 B.C. Abraham was called by God to the land of Canaan; 1450 B.C. The exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt; 1450-1400 B.C. The traditional date for Moses' writing of Genesis-Deuteronomy written in Hebrew; 586 B.C. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. The Jews were taken into captivity to Babylon. They remained in Babylon under the Medo-Persian Empire and there began to speak Aramaic. 555-545 B.C. The Book of *Daniel, chapters 2:4 to 7:28* were written in Aramaic. 425 B.C. Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, was written in Hebrew. Around 400 B.C. Ezra Chapters. 4:8 to 6:18; and 7:12-26 were written in Aramaic. Praise God today for His self-revealing work over so many centuries!

Wednesday - The Old Testament began to be translated into Aramaic by 400 B.C. which helped the Jewish people, who began to speak Aramaic from the time of their captivity in Babylon, to understand the Old Testament in the language that they commonly spoke. In the first century Palestine of Jesus' day, Aramaic was still the commonly spoken language. In 250 B.C. The Old Testament was translated into Greek. This translation is known as the Septuagint ("LXX", which is Roman numeral for "70") because it was believed that 70 to 72 translators worked to translate the Hebrew Old Testament in Greek. The Septuagint was often used by New Testament and early church writers when they quoted from the Old Testament. Regardless of the language, the bible stresses scriptural study (*Psalm 119:9*)!

Thursday - The New Testament was primarily written in Greek between 45-95 A.D. The Pauline Epistles, the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel of Luke, and the book of Acts are all dated from 45-63 A.D. The Gospel of John and the Revelation may have been written as late as 95 A.D. There are over 5,600 early Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament that are still in existence. The oldest manuscripts were written on papyrus and the later manuscripts were written on leather called parchment. The New Testament manuscript which dates most closely to the original text was copied around 125 A.D, within 35 years of the original. It is designated "p 52" and contains a small portion of John 18. (The "p" stands for papyrus.) Read *2 Thessalonians 3: 15-16*. The more we learn about the bible, the more we see how accurate and truthful it is. Thank God!

Friday - Early translations of the New Testament began with the New Testament from Greek into Latin, Syriac, and Coptic versions about 180 A.D. Coptic was spoken in four dialects in Egypt. The Bible was translated into each of these four dialects around 300 A.D. By 380 A.D. The Latin Vulgate was translated by St. Jerome. He translated into Latin the Old Testament from the Hebrew and the New Testament from Greek. The Latin Vulgate became the Bible of the Western Church until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500's. It continues to be the authoritative translation of the Roman Catholic Church to this day. 1380 A.D. The first English translation of the Bible was by John Wycliffe in 1380 A.D. (*Matthew 5:17-19*) Go online and sign up for a Bible Study today!