

- I. Introduction
 - A. Overview of the importance of studying the Bible
 - B. Introduction to recommendations on studying the Bible
- II. The Context of the Bible
 - A. Historical and cultural background
 - B. Understanding the different literary genres in the Bible
- III. Approaching the Text
 - A. Developing a proper attitude and mindset for studying the Bible
 - B. Understanding the authority, inspiration, and interpretation of Scripture
- IV. Observing the Text
 - A. Reading the text carefully
 - B. Noting key details and patterns
 - C. Paying attention to the context and structure of the passage
- V. Interpreting the Text
 - A. Understanding the author's original intent
 - B. Considering the historical and cultural context
 - C. Analyzing the literary devices used in the text
- VI. Applying the Text
 - A. Discerning the timeless principles and truths in the text
 - B. Applying the text to one's own life and circumstances
 - C. Considering the practical implications for personal growth and relationship with God
- VII. Tools for Studying the Bible
 - A. Study Bibles and commentaries
 - B. Concordances and lexicons
 - C. Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias
- VIII. Studying in Community
 - A. Joining a Bible study group or attending a church community
 - B. Engaging in discussions and sharing insights with others
 - C. Seeking guidance and accountability from trusted mentors or leaders
- IX. Cultivating a Habit of Study
 - A. Establishing a regular study routine
 - B. Setting manageable goals for studying the Bible
 - C. Making use of various study methods and resources
- X. Conclusion
 - A. Recap of the key steps in studying the Bible according to our recommendations
 - B. Encouragement to apply these principles in personal Bible study journey

BIBLE STUDY WORKSHEET

Text:

Date:

Am I ready to study the text?

1. Affirmation: God's Word is inerrant and infallible. I can believe it all and depend upon it totally.
2. Preparation: I am studying to be approved by God, not ashamed before Him, because I cut the Word of Truth straight.
In dealing with my sin, Jesus Christ is my intercessor through whom I can restore pure fellowship with God.
The Holy Spirit is my divine illuminator, *i.e., teacher and guide.*

What does the text say?

3. Observation:

What does the text mean by what it says?

4. Investigation:

5. Interpretation:

What else does the Bible say about this text?

6. Correlation:

How does this text apply to me?

7. Personalization:

How has this text impacted my life?

8. Appropriation:

With whom can I share what I have learned?

9. Proclamation:

A Summary of 'Crooked Cuts'

1. A Text Without a Context	
A. Prooftexting:	Stringing together an inappropriate or inadequate series of Bible verses to prove our theology.
B. Isolationism:	Failing to interpret a single Scripture text in light of its context.
2. Adding To Scripture	
A. Spiritualizing:	Reading a spiritual or historical truth <i>into</i> a text rather than extracting truth <i>from</i> it.
B. Nationalizing:	Seeing one's own country as the recipient of national promises made by God in the Bible to Israel.
3. Editing God's Mind	
A. Embellishing:	Reading current thinking into the Bible.
B. Methodologizing:	Interpreting the Scripture by means of an unproved theory about the Bible's literary origin.
4. Modernizing the Bible	
A. Accommodation:	Viewing Scripture through the lens of human reason.
B. Culturalizing:	Limiting a text to a specific time in history or culture, when in reality the text demands a wider application in time. OR Extending a past practice or culture into our time which in fact should have been limited historically.
5. Twisting Scripture	
A. Redefining:	Giving historically accepted biblical words new definitions to support our theology.
B. Anglicizing:	Reaching inaccurate conclusions by drawing theology from the English text
C. Mysticizing:	Finding hidden meanings in Scripture that can be understood only by the one who knows the 'secret code'.
6. Over Literalizing	
A. Letterism:	Ignoring figures of speech and drawing woodenly literal conclusions.
B. Legalizing:	Overemphasizing the letter of God's Word at the expense of its spirit.
7. Reverse Interpretation	

A. Generalizing:	Assuming that any specific historical experience reported in Scripture is a valid, general experience for today.
B. Experientializing:	Reasoning that if any experience has occurred in Scripture, and I have the same experience, then it must be from God, i.e. using experience to validate Scripture instead of vice versa.
8. Over Systematizing	
A. Dogmatizing:	Starting with a conclusion, which is then used to interpret the evidence, thereby assuring that the desired conclusion will be affirmed, i.e. circular reasoning.
B. Dispensationalizing:	Overemphasizing the variations in God's stewardship of redemption throughout history while minimizing God's never-changing dealings with mankind according to His never-changing

