

Bible Study Methods

Note: These 12 Bible Studies Methods are presented in "Personal Bible Study Methods" by Rick Warren

1. The Devotional Method

Choose a short passage of the Bible and prayerfully meditate on it. Quietly wait and listen for the Holy Spirit to reveal applicable truth for your life. Write down what you learned.

2. The Chapter Summary Method

Read a chapter of the Bible at least five times. Right a summary of the chapter that emphasizes the main points of the chapter and what you learn from the chapter.

3. The Thematic Method

Choose a Bible theme to study such as: prayer, forgiveness, salvation, etc. Think of three to five questions that you would like to have answered about that topic. Study all the references about the topic and write down the answers you find to your questions. The use of a good Bible concordance is helpful for this method.

4. Character Quality Study

Choose a character quality that you would like to work on in your life such as: loving, compassionate, purity, joy, giving, etc. Search the scriptures and learn what the Bible says about those character qualities.

5. The Biographical Method

Choose a Bible character and study all of the passages that mention that person. Write down their strengths and weaknesses and what you can learn from them.

6. The Topical Method

List and compare all the verses you can find on a certain topic. Organize your findings in an outline.

7. The Word Study Method

Choose an important word in the Bible such as: inspiration, justification, redemption, atonement, sanctification, glorification, propitiation, etc. Using a good Bible concordance, find out how many times the word is used in the Bible and find the original meaning of the word.

8. The Book Background Method

Choose a book of the Bible. Study the history and culture surrounding the time when the book was written. Use commentaries and reference tools to assist in your study.

9. The Book Survey Method

Survey a book of the Bible by reading it through several times.

10. The Chapter Analysis Method

Concentrate on a chapter in the Bible. Examine it word by word. Work to memorize the chapter.

11. The Book Synthesis Method

After reading a book of the Bible several times, summarize the main themes of the book. Make an outline of the book. This method should be done after the Book Survey and Chapter Analysis Methods.

12. The Verse-by-Verse Analysis Method

Choose one passage of scripture to study in detail. Ask questions, use cross-references, and paraphrase each verse. Write down an application from each verse you study.