

Bible Study Tips

- Read books of the bible like they are books. Reading through an entire book such as Galatians will give you context for the entire book and help you understand verses alongside their original purpose.
- Read a bible with no numbered verses i.e. The Message. This will help you to read through a section and connect verses to their surrounding context even more. Be sure to keep it in the perspective of your other Study Bible.
- Use a Study Bible with multiple authors. Study Bibles such as the Max Lucado study bible are a great resource but can only give you the perspective of one man. ESV or NIV study bible is a collaborative project through many pastors, teachers and scholars to give an excellent blended work of many points of view.
- Ask the following questions:
 - What did the Author mean to say? The ancient authors used many stories that related to the common people of their time. Try to reach the understanding of what they intended.
 - What would the audience have heard? Remember to put yourself in their shoes as well. We may have a different connotation that goes with certain phrases. Understanding their point of view helps us understand the true meaning of the scripture.
- Meditate & Memorize. Spend time pondering the heart of the story and make that a point to memorize. Not necessarily the chapter and verse numbers but the actual story.
- Listen with an ear to teach. Not that you will be expected to teach a class, but it is proven that comprehension and understanding are best demonstrated through a person's ability to teach. Teaching the story to your kids is a great place for it.
- Occasionally fast from it. After a large amount of information intake it is necessary to give yourself time to process and 'Digest'. Take a day or two and use it to further your understanding of what you have already reviewed. However be careful not to let it become a problem that keeps you from scripture. There is also a time to push through and keep reading.
- Anticipate and expect to hear from God as a father. When we study our heart should be eager and wanting to have an encounter with God.
- Don't read carefully, read prayerfully. Always read the bible through the lens of relationship in prayer with God to develop the relationship in truth and love.