



## Why Should I Study?

Before we talk about *how* to study, let's quickly go over *why* we should study God's Word. We believe all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, and equipped for every good work ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). Knowing the Word of God is vital for life in Him!

## Conversation Starters

Have you ever gotten lost? How did you figure out where you were and where you needed to go? How important is having a strong cell phone signal or access to good instructions?

## Dig In

In the Old Testament, God tells Moses to give the Israelites instructions about His Word. Read [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#).

1. What is Moses telling the people to do? Why?
2. Moses is using figurative language to depict something very important: enter your life around the word of God; don't neglect it. Why do you think God wanted to remind them of this before they entered the Promised Land?
3. Based on the passage above ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)), spend a few minutes talking about why studying the Word is important.

## Passage to Study: [1 John 2:7-14](#)

Before you start studying, it's always a good idea to begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand. Pray as a group and then take a few moments for each person to read the passage silently to themselves three times.

1. The first time you read through, just read.
2. The second time, underline, circle, highlight repeated words or phrases, or anything that stands out to you. In your journal, write down any questions that come up.
3. The third time, ask yourself:
  - What is this passage about? (Observation)
  - What is the author communicating to the audience about God? What is it communicating about me? (Interpretation)
  - How am I to live in light of this revealed truth? (Application)

Share what you discovered with your group. Keep in mind, each book of the Bible was written to an intended audience for a purpose. We must always be careful to not make the text say what it was never intended to say.

Are there any cross-references? If so, check them out! What clarity do they bring to the text?

In closing, pray through the Scripture you just spent time unpacking. Ask God to help you see like He does and bring His Word to mind throughout the week. Pray for your group or family members that the eyes of their hearts will be enlightened that they may know what is the hope to which they have been called, and the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints ([Ephesians 1:18](#)).

## Putting Study Into Practice

There are lots of great ways to study God's Word! Today, we're going to practice studying in a way that will hopefully lead to some great conversation and will be duplicable at home on your own time.

It's incredibly useful to have a journal for taking notes and a study Bible with cross-references. If you've never used cross-references before, don't be frightened! They're the tiny letters next to the words in your Bible. They correspond to the verses in the margin that will lead you to the other places in the Bible where similar concepts are written about or referenced. They will open your eyes to the connections throughout the Bible and help give you understanding.

## Recommended Resources

- [Seven Arrows: The Basics of Bible Study by The Gospel Coalition](#)
- [Blue Letter Bible](#)
- [The Life and Times of Jesus The Messiah by Alfred Edersheim](#)
- [The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times by Ralph Gower](#)
- [How to Study the Bible by John MacArthur](#)
- [Reading the Bible Supernaturally by John Piper](#)
- [ESV Study Bible](#)