

# Simple Bible Study Method

## Steps

1. **Prayer for Guidance**
  - Start with a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance and understanding as you read and study.
2. **Select a Passage**
  - Choose a specific passage or chapter to study. Begin with shorter passages if you're new to studying the Bible.
3. **Read the Passage**
  - Read the selected passage multiple times. Consider different translations for varied insights.
4. **Contextual Study**
  - **Historical Context:** Research the historical background of the passage. What was happening at the time?
  - **Cultural Context:** Understand the cultural practices and beliefs of the people involved.
  - **Textual Context:** Look at the surrounding verses and chapters to grasp the overall message.
5. **Observation**
  - Note key words, phrases, and themes. What stands out? What questions arise?
6. **Interpretation**
  - Use available resources such as commentaries, study Bibles, or online tools to explore interpretations of the passage.
7. **Application**
  - Reflect on how the passage applies to your life today. What lessons can you learn? How can you implement these in your daily life?
8. **Discussion**
  - If possible, discuss your findings with a friend or a small group to gain different perspectives.
9. **Journal Your Insights**
  - Write down your observations, interpretations, and applications in a journal for future reference.

## Tools

- **Study Bible:** A good study Bible contains notes that provide historical and cultural context.
  - Pastor Ryan recommends: CSB Study Bible (Holman), ESV Study Bible (Crossway), MacArthur Study Bible (Thomas Nelson)
- **Commentaries:** You can find single volume commentaries that cover the entire Bible.

- Pastor Ryan recommends: Matthew Henry Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible, The Moody Bible Commentary, Weirsbe Bible Commentary (OT and NT are separate volumes)
- **Bible Dictionary:** Useful for understanding terms, places, and cultural practices.
- **Online Resources:** Websites like Blue Letter Bible or Bible Gateway offer tools and resources for deeper study.
  - Pastor Ryan recommends: Logos Bible Software, Ligonier Ministries, Blue Letter Bible, Bible Gateway, GotQuestions.org
- **Journaling Supplies:** A notebook or digital app for tracking your insights and reflections.

## Suggested Starting Passages

1. **The Gospel of John** (especially chapters 1 and 3)
  - Focuses on the nature of Christ and foundational Christian beliefs.
2. **Psalms 23**
  - A comforting passage that speaks to God's care and guidance.
3. **Romans 8**
  - Explores themes of salvation, the Holy Spirit, and assurance.
4. **Ephesians 2**
  - Discusses grace and the unity of believers.
5. **Philippians 4:4-9**
  - Offers practical advice on joy and peace in Christ.

## Conclusion

This method is flexible and can be adapted to fit individual needs. By focusing on prayer, context, observation, interpretation, application, and discussion, both new and long-time Christians can deepen their understanding of Scripture in a meaningful way. Happy studying!