

BIBLE STUDY

MADE EASY





HOW TO TACKLE THE TOUGH PARTS

NOW THAT we've explained how to begin, the four steps of inductive Bible study, and all the tools in the Bible study toolbox, let's talk through some of the tough parts.

Any student of the Bible will tell you that the Bible can be quite challenging to understand, and sometimes leave you scratching your head wondering what it means. But don't give up! God's Word is worth it. Know this: You will learn more and remember more if you discover what the Scriptures say yourself.

If you're facing a tough passage of Scripture (and even when you're not), pray for wisdom and understanding. Remember what James says: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5).

The Five “Do Nots” of Interpretation

- 1 Do not** “proof text” (take verses out of context).
 - Read the surrounding chapters and the verses before and after the verse you are studying. Get the whole picture. Don’t study verses out of context. Look at the outline of the book.
 - Take the whole Bible as God’s Word. Don’t just concentrate on one verse or one idea. See if the teaching is explained more fully in other parts of the Bible.
 - Look at the small cross-references in your Bible to help you find other verses on the same subject.

- 2 Do not** be too literal.
 - Learn to recognize figurative language. (See next section.)

- 3 Do not** ignore the Bible’s cultural, historical, and literary background.
 - Though it’s one timeless story, God’s Word is comprised of various kinds of literature.
 - It was compiled over hundreds of years in a variety of cultural settings by some 40 different human authors writing in three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

- If we insist on reading it through twenty-first century Western eyes, we will misunderstand its meaning.

4 Do not read your own ideas into the Scriptures.

- Be careful not to jump to conclusions. Read the passage several times. Let it sink in.
- We must beware of trying to force a passage to fit with our preexisting beliefs or experiences.
- Disciples should always base their beliefs on what the Bible says rather than interpreting the Bible in accordance with their beliefs.

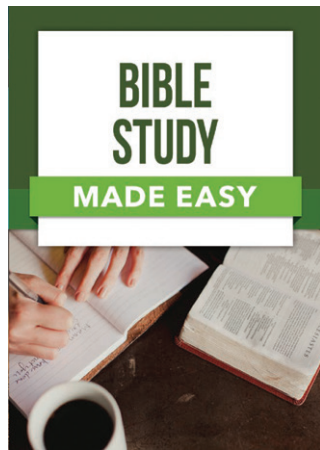
5 Do not get overly creative.

- It's tempting to look for some mysterious, hidden, symbolic meaning that no one has ever seen before. But it's also dangerous.



❖ Instead, you should . . .

<p>Ask and answer a LOT of questions!</p>	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What kind of literature is this? Poetry? History? Prophecy? Wisdom? Epistolary? ■ Is this passage narrative (a story) or didactic (instruction)? ■ Is this text descriptive (simply telling about things that happened in a unique setting) or prescriptive (showing what should happen in all places at all times)?
<p>Use the whole of Scripture to help interpret the parts of Scripture.</p>	<p>If other passages do not corroborate your interpretation of a text, you may be on dangerous ground. We should always use clear passages to help us grasp the meanings of unclear ones.</p>
<p>Consider the context of a statement or passage.</p>	<p>For example, to understand Jesus' command to the healed man, "Don't go into the village," in Mark 8, we need to look at comparable passages in Mark's gospel (1:44; 5:19, 43; see also Matthew 8:4 and 16:20).</p>
<p>Consult trustworthy commentaries on Scripture.</p>	<p>Seeing how Bible scholars interpret a text is a valuable help in understanding God's Word. So make use of Bible commentaries and study Bibles with notes from scholars.</p>



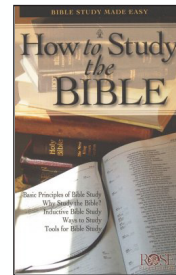
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Bible Study Made Easy

How can you dig deeper into the Bible? Enjoy a solid, easy-to-understand overview of inductive Bible study with Rose's *Bible Study Made Easy*. Featuring charts, simple summaries, and practical tips, this quick guide is a great introduction, going step-by-step through the basic principles of Bible study. Discover how to use concordances to easily navigate through the Bible, find out how to dig deeper with Bible dictionaries, and learn how to apply God's word to your life through inductive Bible studies. It covers:

- 7 "first steps" to take when beginning a Bible study
- 8 basic principles of Bible study
- Dozens of study tips and recommendations, including which key Bible verses, passages, and books of the Bible to explore
- 3 keys to inductive Bible study and the S.O.I.L. four-step approach that explains how to dig deeper into the Bible Perfect for individual study, 1-on-1 discipleship, small groups, adult Sunday school classes, youth groups, and new believers' classes!

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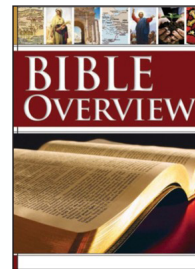


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This full-color, glossy pamphlet is ideal for teachers who want to provide information on studying the Bible in a quick, easy-to-use format. It offers concise steps for personal preparation, descriptive resources and reference information, a step-by-step approach for inductive Bible study, how to understand what the Scriptures means as a whole, as well as real-life application on a personal level.

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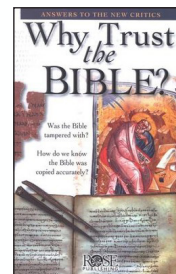


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