

Summer at Freedom Week 6 Study Guide

6-29-25 “How To Study The Bible”

Why Study the Bible?

- **Holy Spirit Guidance:** John 14:26 and John 16:13 emphasize the Holy Spirit's role in teaching and guiding you into truth.
- **Diligent Study:** 2 Timothy 2:15 (Greek: *spoudazó* - make effort; *orthotomeó* - cut straight) urges diligent, accurate handling of God's Word to avoid flawed theology.

Bible Translation Types

1. **Word-for-Word:** Interlinear, NASB, ESV, KJV/NKJV, CSB
2. **Thought-for-Thought:** NIV, NET, NLT (recommended for beginners), GNT
3. **Paraphrase:** Message, Living Bible

Tools for Bible Study

- **YouVersion:** Free app with multiple translations, devotionals, and accountability features.
- **Bible Hub:** Free website with side-by-side translations, commentaries, Strong's Concordance, Greek/Hebrew tools, timelines, and maps.
- **Matthew Henry Commentary:** Explains verses, context, and theology; read the passage first, then use for clarity on key words, history, and themes.
- **The Bible Project:** Animated videos, podcasts, and reading plans for visual learners, offering context and book-specific classes.
- **Openbible.info:** Topical Bible for searching verses by topic (e.g., anxiety, love).
- **Other:** Google, Grok for additional insights.

Bible Study Methods

S.O.A.P. Method

- **Scripture:** Read and write down the passage (e.g., John 3:16-17).
- **Observation:** Note what the text says (e.g., God's love, Jesus' purpose).
- **Application:** Apply the truth to your life (e.g., embrace God's love, reject condemnation).
- **Prayer:** Pray for understanding and application.

Inductive Bible Study

- **Observation:** Identify who, what, where, when, commands, promises, or repeated words.

- **Interpretation:** Determine the main idea, teachings about God/people, and cultural/historical context.
- **Application:** Decide how to live out the truth, obey commands, or confess sins.

Example: Woman at the Well (John 4:2-42)

- **Context:** Jesus, a Jew, speaks to a Samaritan woman, breaking cultural norms.
- **Correlations:**
 - **Well Symbolism:** Jacob met Rachel at a well (Genesis 29:9-14); wells often signify covenant relationships in Scripture (Abraham, Moses).
 - **Samaritans:** Half-Jew, half-Gentile, representing the church as a mix of broken, redeemed people.
 - **Worship Redefined:** Jesus shifts worship from physical locations (e.g., Samaria's Bethel) to spirit and truth.
 - **Bride Imagery:** Jesus' talk of marriage (John 4) connects to John 3's groom imagery and Revelation's marriage of Christ to the church.
- **Application:** Recognize Jesus as the Savior who seeks and purifies His bride (the church), including you, despite sin or brokenness.

Action Steps

1. **Open the Bible:** Use tools like YouVersion or Bible Hub to read and explore.
2. **Be Curious:** Let the Holy Spirit highlight words/phrases; research them using commentaries, concordances, or Google.
3. **Apply Insights:** Ask, "What is the Holy Spirit saying to me?" (Isaiah 43:19).
4. **Pray:** Seek guidance to recognize and apply God's truth daily.