

ways to study scripture

S.O.A.P

Scripture | Pick a scripture

Observation | What do you see in this scripture? Answer who, what, when, where, and how.

Application | How do I apply this to my life? What is my response to this scripture?

Prayer | Close your session in prayer

T.E.X.T

Talk: Talk to God before you study scripture; what does God want to reveal to you

Encounter God: What does this passage say about God? and about people?

eXamine your heart: Do you need to confess, take away, add or maintain something in your life to be a follower of Jesus?

Talk to God: Talk to God and other people sharing what God has shown you in scripture and how it applies to your life

Verse Mapping

Write out your chosen verse(s).

Write them in at least two other translations.

Circle keywords to look up in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek and write down the definitions, synonyms, and root words.

Explore the meaning and message of the verse or verses as you consider the people, places, and context involved, and make connections to other relevant passages and concepts in Scripture.

Write a 1–2 sentence summary of what you learned and consider how you can apply it.

Topical Study

Choose a topic you want to explore.

Look up references to this topic.

Choose the verses you wish to study.

Ask questions about the topic.

Read the verses and see how they address your questions.

Summarize your conclusion(s).

Write out your application.

Character Study

Choose the bible character you want to study.

Find the relevant passages about him or her.

Read your passages, and consult additional Bible study tools like Bible dictionaries, to learn everything you can about this character (Using the who, what, when, where, and how questions will help you get a full picture of the character).

Find the application points for your life.

Inductive Strategy

Who: Who is speaking; who are they speaking to; who is present in the moment, etc.

What: What is this passage about; what problem is this passage addressing; what is happening; what is being said; what commands need to be obeyed, etc.

When: When is this event taking place?

Where: Where is this event taking place, where does it fit in the larger context of the book and the bible as a whole?

Why: Why is this message needed, why is it relevant today?

How: How does this change what I know about God and people; how do I apply this to my life so that I can live more faithfully as a follower of Jesus?

