

# *Quick-Step Bible Study*



In CMF, we're convinced that God has chosen to communicate to us via the Bible. It is therefore always best to study it inductively and as thoroughly as possible. Our CMF Discipleship Training Objectives (DTO's) are a start in that direction. Also, if you will contact the Home Office, we can recommend some excellent resources to help you learn how to perform more detailed studies of the Scriptures.

But knowing the reality of military operations that can make it difficult or impossible to access anything more than your Bible. It is not unheard of to have devotions on an empty mess deck, by the light of a red fire exit sign or under a blanket with a flashlight. In fact, with the exception of those with access to a computer, nobody ever deploys with a theological library in their locker, rucksack or flight bag. It is possible, however, to do very meaningful Bible studies with no more tools than paper and pen or pencil.

This method being shared can be a personally edifying, devotional approach that is time honored. It begins with opening the Bible and reading it! As you read a passage, seek to understand the context (the main topics of the paragraph, chapter and book in which the passage is located) so that any interpretations you make are consistent with the author's intent. Trust the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher. Ask the Lord to speak to you and to lead you not only in hearing but also living out whatever you learn (see James 1:22-25).

The mechanics of this method come from the questions that the Apostle Paul asked when he was confronted by Christ on the road to Damascus, as he recounted in Acts 22:6-11. It is always appropriate to ask, "**Who are you, Lord?**" (vs. 8) and "**What shall I do, Lord?**" (vs. 10). The first question is seeking to know God, the theologians call it "proper theology." The second question is seeking to know what to do about it, the theologians call it "practical theology." The whole process is what they call "theological reflection." But these are just fancy ways of saying that we need to figure out who God is and how we should live in response to Him.

So this quick-step method is simply a way of asking those questions and deciding what to do in response to the answers. You could, in fact, just make asking those literal questions and seeking the answers from the passage the sum total of your routine. But as part of the process try to answer the two questions and pursue

the two action steps that follow (you could call it the ASK & ACT devotional Bible study method):

ASK: What does the passage say about God the Father, the Son, and/ or the Holy Spirit?

ASK: What does the passage say about any specific person(s), people in general or me in particular?

ACT: Determine anything from the passage for which I can worship, praise, thank or ask the Lord — and do so!

ACT: Determine any sins I need to confess and forsake, promises to claim, commands to obey, examples to follow, errors to avoid, actions to take, etc. — and do so!

Jot down the answers to the questions as well as the actions you intend to take in response. Acting on what you have discovered begin with writing out and reciting a prayer. Praying through this process will really help your to understand and apply whatever truth you have gleaned from the passage. As an example, after the following quote of Psalm 1, sample journal entries are included.

### **Psalm 1**

Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.

[2] But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

[3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

[4] Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff  
that the wind blows away.

[5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

[6] For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

*God:*

*-He is Lord*

*- He has revealed His law*

---

P.O. Box 1207 • Englewood, CO 80150-1207 • Voice 800-798-7875 • FAX 303-761-4577

Email: [admin@cmfhq.org](mailto:admin@cmfhq.org) • Web Site: <http://cmfhq.org>

- *it is His law in which we should delight and on which we should meditate day and night*
- *He watches over the way of the righteous*

*People:*

- *described as blessed, wicked, sinners, mockers, or righteous*
- *blessed are those who rather than receive the counsel of the wicked or participate in sin or mock others, find their delight in God's law and meditate therein day and night*
- *blessings of those mentioned above include nurture, growth, bearing fruit, prosperity, standing in the assembly of the righteous, and the watch care of the Lord*
- *the wicked wither away, cannot withstand the judgement, and their way will perish*

*I worship You, Lord, as the One in Whose law I am to delight and meditate, Who blesses, nurtures, and prospers those who do so, always watching over the way of the righteous. I confess how indifferent I can be toward Your law, being willing to ignore it when it is convenient to do so. Thank you for Your forgiveness in Christ. Give me the wisdom, discernment, and grace to avoid receiving the counsel of the wicked, participating with sinners, or joining with mockers. Teach me instead, Lord, to find joy and satisfaction in knowing and living Your will as it is revealed in Your Word. Lead me in the way of constantly delighting and meditating therein. May I seize every opportunity today to recall, review, think about and work on memorizing this Psalm. Amen.*

You may have noticed in the journal entries that the answers to the questions are obvious and simple observations of what the passage says. That is the point of this method. It is meant to be used when you do not have the time, means, inclination, etc., for a more detailed and technical study. To reiterate, careful inductive study of the Bible is important and necessary. But in your personal devotions, you may prefer to keep things simple and relaxed so this method may be useful. You may envision even simpler journal entries. They might look something like:

*Lord, You promise to bless those who delight in and meditate on Your law. Teach me therefore, as I review this Psalm today, what it means and how to go about delighting in and meditating on Your law day and night. Amen.*

Later, when you do have the time, means, inclination, etc., you can dig deeper. You can begin asking and answering additional inductive questions (who, what, when, where, why, how) about what the passage says (observation), what it

means (interpretation), and what you will want to do about it (application). Some examples of these kinds of questions would include:

1. What does the author mean by: wicked; sinners; mockers?
2. How might I avoid falling into the ways of all of the above?
3. Considering the historical period, what would the author have in mind as “the law of the Lord”?
4. When, why, how, and to whom was that law given?
5. What should we consider as “the law of the Lord”?
6. What does it mean to “delight” in His law?
7. What does it mean to “meditate” on His law?
8. When and why should I meditate on His law?
9. How will I go about delighting in and meditating on His law?
10. What is the analogy of the tree intended to communicate about the blessed?
11. What is promised to the “blessed”?
12. What does the author mean by “Whatever he does prospers”?
13. What kind of prosperity is it?
14. What is the analogy of chaff and wind intended to communicate about the wicked?
15. What is “the judgement”?
16. What is “the assembly of the righteous”?
17. Who are the righteous?
18. How can I be counted among them?
19. What is promised to the righteous?
20. How does the Lord watch over the righteous?
21. How do you reconcile the Lord’s watch care of the righteous with the fact that they suffer the same kinds of trials and tribulations as everybody else?
22. Who are contrasted in this passage? What are the differences between them? How would you communicate those differences to others?

The suggested questions above are not exhaustive. So as you can see, it is possible to get very involved in an inductive study. And whenever we can, we should do exactly that. An excellent resource for learning inductive study is a book titled “How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept” by Kay Arthur of Precept Ministries . You can also contact them directly for information on other outstanding Bible study resources.

But whether you’re doing a quick devotional reading or an exhaustive study, the important thing is to be in the Scriptures (see Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1, 19, 119; John 14:21,23; Romans 10:17; II Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; I Peter 2:1-3). Ask the Lord to reveal Himself as you study His Word while you also inquire of Him regarding His will for your life. If you will ask, He will answer! If you will act, He will bless!