

| Type               | Examples  |
|--------------------|---|
| Poem               | Song of Songs, Psalm 78, 104, 119   |
| Song/Hymn          | Song of Miriam (Exodus 15:1-18), Song of Deborah (Judges 5), Psalm 19, 27 |
| Story              | Ruth, Esther  |
| History            | 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Nehemiah, Ezra               |
| Parable            | Luke 16   |
| Allegory           | Ezekiel 16  |
| Doctrinal teaching | Matthew 5-7   |
| Wisdom Literature  | Proverbs, (this may overlap with Poems)                                   |
| Prophetic Oracle   | Isaiah 14:1-23  |
| Vision report      | Ezekiel 1<br>Daniel 7, 8  |
| Prayer             | Psalm 12<br>Daniel 9  |

### Example Prayer for Bible Study

*Lord, take from me any thought habits which will keep me from hearing. Make me open to your voice and your voice alone.*

*Lord, help me to accept your people as my brothers and sisters in your kingdom let me learn and grow from both their weaknesses and their strengths.*

*Lord, I trust you to reveal yourself to your people the way you know is best. Let your will be done.*

*Lord, let me not only recognize but obey your voice. Let my actions be conformed to your will. Help me to love my neighbor as myself.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Resources

### Bible(s)

- For quick reading (overview):  
*Contemporary English Version (CEV)*  
*The Message*  
*New Living Translation (NLT)*
- For study or reading:  
*New International Version (NIV)*  
*Revised English Bible (REB)*
- For study:  
*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

(This list is not exhaustive.)

### Bible Dictionaries

*HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*  
*New International Bible Dictionary*

### Concordances

The NIV Exhaustive Concordance.

### Bibles with study notes

*Oxford Study Bible (REB)*  
*New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV)*  
*Spirit Filled Life Bible*  
*The NIV Study Bible (Zondervan)*

### Bible Atlases

Many study Bibles include good Bible atlases, but a separate Bible Atlas or world history atlas can be useful.

*Oxford Bible Atlas*

*The Harper Atlas of World History*

### Bible Handbooks

*The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*  
*Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible*

For further information see the Pacesetters Bible School brochures *What's in a Version* and *Bible Study Tools*.

## This Pamphlet Provided Courtesy of:

**I Want to Study the Bible**

I Want to Study The Bible



Place your church address here.

Energion Publications  
P. O. Box 841  
Gonzalez, FL 32560

**Phone:** (850) 968-1001  
**Web:** <http://energion.com>  
**E-Mail:** [pubs@energion.com](mailto:pubs@energion.com)

This brochure is available in quantity. Contact Energion Publications for more information.

All scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version, Copyright © 1995 American Bible Society, unless otherwise marked.

Copyright © 1998, Henry E. Neufeld



**Energion Publications**  
Participatory Study Series

Scholarship in Service

## How can I get more from my Bible reading?

There is no shortcut in Bible study. If you want to find what God has for you in scripture you will have to dig. There are some things you can do to make your study time more profitable. This brochure outlines an approach to Bible study which can help you both with devotional reading and with deeper study.

### Preparation

*Gather Materials* — have pen, paper, highlighters or other markers and all materials you will need for study available.

*Conditions* — Find a place where you can study. If you study well with music playing, put some on. If you prefer quiet, arrange for a quiet place.

*Resources* — Get a small, well-selected set of study materials. For suggestions see the back panel.

### Prayer

Pray specifically for an open mind to understand, an open heart to receive, enabling grace for the actions you will need to take.

Claim these promises:

*But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.* (1 John 1:9)

*I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be clean and acceptable to me. I will wash away everything*

## The Spirit will teach you everything. — John 14:26

*that makes you unclean, and I will remove your disgusting idols. I will take away your stubborn heart and give you a new heart and a desire to be faithful. You will have only pure thoughts, because I will put my Spirit in you and make you eager to obey my laws and teachings.*  
(Ezekiel 36:25-27)

### Get an Overview of the Passage

Read the passage multiple times. Twelve or more can be a real blessing, but any number from 3 times up will help. Memorizing is useful, at least of key texts. (This will also require you to select key texts.) Read from different Bible versions, to help you with your concentration and to open up different ways of understanding the passage.

At this point **don't** use commentaries, study notes, your concordance, anything which takes your concentration off of the passage you are studying.

### Study the Background

Find out who wrote the passage, to whom it was written, what is the situation being addressed, and what type of literature it is.

(See the back panel for some types of literature in the Bible.)

### Meditate, Question, Research, Compare (Repeat as needed)

Meditate on the passage. If you are having difficulty meditating, think about telling someone else about the passage, such as a friend in need of encouragement, someone who is unsaved, or a child. Think: What questions might they ask about this passage? You can formulate thought questions or fact questions. Fact questions are about what the author is actually saying. Thought questions may lead you to other revelations well beyond the intended statement of the passage.

You can use outlining at this stage, comparison to other scriptures, to writers in church history, or to current experience. Ask: What similar experience are we having today? Can this help me understand the passage. For example, if you have had a vision will that help you understand Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 1? Ask your friends about experiences they have had.

Some historical writers you might consult include Jerome, Aquinas, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley, John Calvin, Charles Spurgeon and many, many others.

### Share your Thoughts

Ask yourself how this has applied in your experience. Get to know the person you are sharing with. Share your experience and then the text. Always work from your own **personal** experience with God.

Store up the experiences your friends

share with you to use in studying further scripture.

### Example Passage 1 Kings 19:11-18

1. Begin your study with prayer.
  2. Read the passage several times. Can you tell this story in your own words?
  3. Read 1 Kings 17-19. Check a Bible Handbook or study Bible for the background of 1 Kings.
  4. Consider how Elijah feels through this experience. Consider what God is trying to accomplish by giving Elijah these experiences.
- How did Elijah know the Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire?
  - Can the Lord appear in such violent events? (Use your concordance, looking up wind, fire, and earthquake.)
  - Does God respond to Elijah's complaint? (Only indirectly; he gives him a task.)
  - Is Elijah as much alone as he feels he is? (No, there are 7,000 more faithful people, v. 18.)
  - What other Bible characters have experienced something similar to this? (Daniel 3—the fiery furnace.)
  - What people in church history may have experienced something similar to this? (Any martyr or person who has suffered persecution.)
  - Have you experienced similar feelings?
  - Have you ever felt completely alone in your faith?