

# 3D Bible Study Sheet

...if you continue in My Word, then you are truly My disciples. - John 8:31

The goal is to Study, Practice, and Teach God's Word. - Ezra 7:10

## 1 DIVERT

Pray; then read the text slowly, thoughtfully, and repeatedly.  
Lord..., forgive us (1 John 1:9) and teach us (John 14:26).

## 2 DIG

Study nouns	(Bible Dictionary)
Identify verbs	(Indicates emphasis)
Read references	(Bible Concordance)
Note repeated words	(Reveals theme)

## 3 DOCUMENT

A. Find the theme:	(Read the text some more and find the Central Idea.)
B. Explain the text	(What are the facts? Observe the text in context.)
C. Interpret the text	(What does this mean? What is being pointed out?)
D. Apply the truth	(How do I practice this?)
E. State implications	(What will happen if I don't practice this?)
F. Illustrate	(What other passages teach this?)
G. Apologetic	(Defend the truth by refuting the opposition.)

- **3D DETAILS.** The “Text” is the small paragraph or passage that is next as you systematically and chronologically study through Bible books. It’s best to read the whole book first. Then read the first chapter again, thoroughly. Finally, read the paragraph a few times. This will keep the content you discover within the right context of Scripture.  
A “Genre” is a classification of literature. In the Bible, the classifications are Historical Narrative, Law, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophecy, Apocalyptic, Gospel, and Epistle. Each merits some study. It is important to know the genre so that the interpretation and application is correct. These simple steps are vital. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)  
Finally, read the text out loud with a respectful weightiness as you emphasize the right words. (1 Tim. 4:13)
- **1 DIVERT.** Divert to prayer first. Prayer and Bible Study belong together. Humbly approach our Holy God with reverence and repentance. Confess known sin and be cleansed of it. (1 John 1:9) Ask God to teach you His Word. The Holy Spirit’s role is to teach you Truth. (John 14:26) Don’t usurp Him by skipping to study notes or commentary. Read those after your own study. It will be incredible to see this process lead you to think with the best scholars and theologians. Meaningful Bible study starts with prayer.
- **2 DIG.** Digging into the meaning of important words will reveal truth. It takes time to find valuable knowledge. “It is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who hurries his footsteps errs” (Proverbs 19:2). Read the text carefully and slowly, identifying the nouns (people, places, things) as you read. Next, look up the nouns in a “Bible” Dictionary. An “English” Dictionary will not give you the Biblical meaning nor Scripture references. Knowing the Biblical meaning rather than the American meaning of words will protect from misinterpretations. Guard against applying our culture or context to words in the Scripture. For example, the American world view and definition of “love” is tragically different from God’s Word. Reading the references is clarifying. Remember, context determines the meaning of words. The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary is recommended. Blueletterbible.org has free study tools online including Bible dictionaries, concordances, and word studies; however, a hard copy will eliminate unnecessary distractions. Take your time and enjoy your digging!
- **3 DOCUMENT.** Document the truths you find. Writing out your own document moves the truth from your head to your heart. We must press beyond “studying” to “practicing”. Step “E” is always convicting! Furthermore, we are commanded to make disciples and “teach” God’s commands (Mt. 28:18-20). In fact, if we only obtain knowledge there’s a risk of becoming prideful and puffed up. “Knowledge makes one conceited, but love edifies people” (1 Cor. 8:1). We must be intentional about teaching. Ezra is a great example. “For Ezra had set in his heart to “study” the law of the Lord and to “practice” it, and to “teach” His statutes (Ezra 7:10). Preparing your own document will equip you to be a great commission Christian who makes disciples.