



CONVERSATIONS IN BIBLE FUNDAMENTALS

“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip . . . saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.” John 12: 20, 21



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

§ - Related Bible Passages:

- *2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- *John 7:16, 17 Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.*
- *John 14:16, 17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

Today’s Conversation: - Chaplain Elizabeth Castle § - What is an effective approach to Bible study?

The first three chapters of the Bible describe God’s perfect world before the entry of sin and then the disruption caused by sin. The last three chapters of the Bible describe the restoration of the creation and in-between those books, the Bible documents the relationship between God and man.

“Salvation” and “faith” are relationship words. The Bible documents this relationship as it shows the constancy of God and the inconsistent response of man to God. As in any relationship, if we would understand God and develop a relationship with Him, we must get to know Him and Jesus. Jesus was present as part of the Godhead from the beginning of time. They are present in the Word: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1.*

If I would trust, I must get to know Him. Our purpose for Bible study must be to know Jesus and to develop a relationship with Him. To develop this relationship we must take time to be alone with Him, to talk and to listen.

Nature is God’s other book. He speak to us through the patterns, diversity, and beauty of the things around us. As we take walks to observe His handiwork we see the battles that exist in the natural world and understand that they are also in our lives. Even as He sustains the natural world He is willing, through His Word, to guide us in managing those challenges in our lives.

§ - In Conclusion:

- Know our purpose for studying the Bible— Knowing Jesus and having a relationship with Him.
- The purpose of the Bible is to convey the plan of salvation. Study allows us to uncover this plan as we read the stories.
- The God who speaks in the Old Testament is the same God in the New Testament.
- The promises of the Bible are true. Apply them to our circumstances.
- God promises guidance in His Word. As we study we should ask and listen for His guidance:



§ - Next Week's Conversation Question:

- What does it mean to be “created in the image of God”?
- Guest Presenter: Pastor Brenda Billingsy



Effective approach to Bible study (continued)

§ - Preparing for Bible Study:

“The Bible is the only Book that whenever it is read, the Author is present”. God is present in His Word so we should invite Him to guide us. Regularly carve out time to spend with God, to ask Him what He would have us know. A disciple is one who walks in the ways of God. Take time to study and understand the ways of God as revealed in Scripture.

§ - Methods of Bible Study

There are several approaches to the study of the Bible. Each individual has different styles of study. Select a method that is comfortable to your style of study.

As a Resource for different styles: garmentsofsplendor.com shows 14 effective Bible studies. Here are a few:

- Inductive Bible study has 3 steps: Select a verse of Scripture and 1) observe- who wrote it, for whom, where did they live, and what message was intended for them. 2) Interpret- what does the passage mean, what was the author trying to communicate through the Holy Spirit. 3) Apply - how does it apply to me today?
- S-O-A-P has 4 steps: 1) Select a verse of Scripture. 2) Observation- who wrote it and for whom. 3) Apply it to our lives. 4) Prayer - ask God for guidance to understand.
- Book-by-Book: Read through the Bible going in order of the books.
- Chapter-by-Chapter: Read a chapter and think about its meaning and application to our lives.
- Topical Study: Select a topic that you are interested in and go through the Bible seeking out information on that topic.
- Studying with Others: In a group, read sections of the Bible and discuss its meaning and application.
- Choose a translation with language that you understand. Use Bible paraphrases as secondary support.
- § - **Books to Aid in Bible Study**: 1) Understanding Jesus: Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ by Joe Amaral. 2) Know Your Bible: All 66 Books Explained and Applied by Paul Kent and George Knight. 3) Through the Eyes of the Ancients: The Books of Moses by Dr. R. Dean Davis. 4) Studying Together by Mark Finley. 5) Bible Commentaries— The SDA Bible Commentary. Andrews University Bible Commentary and Study Bible.

