

Knowing the Bible 101: A Guide to God's Word in Plain Language

Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz

Harvest House Publishers ISBN: 978-0-7369-1261-7 Amazon \$10.07

This is an extremely user-friendly guide to understanding the scriptures written by laymen. Bruce is an attorney and Stan a marketing consultant so they don't use heavy theological terms that require lots of previous knowledge. They've written a great summary chapter on the entire story of God's plan for mankind from Genesis to Revelation (reminiscent of Bible time with Josh Walker) that is a great place to begin with the novice Bible reader or new believer. Then they follow by giving a book by book account, interjecting humor along the way, which leads the reader to a more complete understanding of God's divine plan. Each chapter concludes with summary statements and thoughtful discussion questions. Though it is factual and easy to understand it does not include any bible study methods to be able to take the next step in study. We would not discount it's usefulness but rather use it to create hunger for the Word and take someone to the next level of study.

How to Get the Most from God's Word: An Everyday Guide to Enrich Your Study of the Bible

John MacArthur, Jr.

Word Publishing ISBN: 0-8499-4093-1 Amazon: Private sellers only \$1.00+

(Published in 1997 it seems this book is out of print but still available from private sellers.) This book was released in conjunction with the publication of his new study Bible in 1997 and he states "these chapters comprise the heart of what I have taught about God's Word, how to study it, and how to discern its meaning for yourself." The book is classic MacArthur writing; confident, authoritative and convincing. He discusses such topics as the inspiration of scripture, how God's word changes us, how the Word matures us spiritually and even includes a chapter on spiritual warfare. He provides a modest discussion on the organization of the scriptures, the importance of bible study and the inductive bible study method. Again, this is a good resource to whet your appetite for more and is best used for those who enjoy more scholarly writing but are beginners to the study of God's Word.

According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible

Graeme Goldsworthy

IVP Academic

ISBN: 978-0-8308-2696-4

Amazon: \$16.32

Though not a Bible study method book, the information contained in this one volume will increase your appreciation for the Scriptures and the extraordinary gift that God gave us in giving us His Word. This book is particularly enjoyable for the thoughtful reader who enjoys pondering and meditating while learning something new. Beginning with the story of Christ the author then moves in both directions, back through the Old Testament and then forward through the New Testament to give us the whole picture of the redemptive work of God. In statements like “What went before Christ in the Old Testament, as well as what comes after him, finds its meaning in him”, lead us to a greater understanding of the centrality of the Gospel and the reason we focus our attention on reaching the world with its message. Each chapter concludes with questions which would be ideal for group discussions. This is an awesome resource for anyone’s library.

How to Study the Bible for Yourself

Tim LaHaye

Harvest House Publishers

ISBN: 1-56507-631-1

Amazon: \$8.63

LaHaye’s approach is more antidotal and less theological but immensely practical. He writes in an encouraging style with step-by-step suggestions on how to get started reading the Bible, and the added importance of keeping a spiritual journal. He even goes so far as to offer a reading schedule “designed to help streamline the learning process for a young Christian so that he may concentrate on those books that have the answers to his greatest need”. And although he provides a simple schedule for reading through the entire Bible in 3 years his methodology is precise enough that one could use it when studying any book for any length of time. LaHaye also include chapters on Bible Study tools and a discussion of Hermeneutics. He concludes with 2 great chapters on discipling ourselves through Bible study and discipling others. Included are reproducible charts and outlines.

** Bonus: Also available is How to Study the Bible for Yourself Youth Edition, also available from Amazon for \$8.33. It specifically targets teens to get them excited about studying the Word.

The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study

Oletta Wald

Augsburg Fortress ISBN: 9780806644295 Amazon: \$9.99 Kindle edition: \$7.99

This is the simplest and most straightforward resource we've found that easily instructs in the inductive Bible study method. Although Wald's steps differ slightly from those taught at Eternity Bible College she includes the essential processes of observation, interpretation and application. Included in the book are many "practice" worksheets that help the student through each step in the process. The entire inductive method can be taught in as few as 4 sessions or can be expanded to 8 lessons requiring deeper study and understanding. Both options are included in the book. She does not include the important preliminary discussions of the authority or sufficiency of scripture which should be established in using the previous resources provided above.

** Bonus: Also available from Amazon is The New Joy of Teaching Discovery Bible Study for \$9.99 (Kindle edition \$7.99). This is a great resource for those who themselves have not taught the inductive method yet want to learn and teach simultaneously. Wald makes many strong arguments for the importance of learning together in community and how we are gifted differently and the value in studying scripture together. You will love her discussion of the vertical and horizontal dimensions of bible study – God's relationship with His people and God's people in relationship with each other.

How to Study Your Bible: The Lasting Rewards of the Inductive Approach

Kay Arthur

Harvest House Publishers ISBN: 1-56507-173-5 Amazon: \$7.91 Kindle Edition: \$7.91

Kay Arthur, co-founder with her husband of Precept Ministries, has spent the last 40 years promoting and teaching the inductive Bible study method to literally thousands of students worldwide. This resource describes the observation-interpretation-application process simply but in greater depth than Wald's book. It will be ideal for the more knowable student and one who has access to Bible study tools such as Bible dictionaries, a concordance and Hebrew-Greek dictionaries. It could also be the right next step for the individual who has completed the Wald book and is eager to learn more. Another benefit to this study is that it will open the door to utilizing Arthur's extensive library of Bible studies which require knowing the inductive method. (See www.precept.org for a listing of available studies)

** Bonus: Also check out How to Study Your Bible for Kids, for students age 9-12. Available at Amazon for \$7.91/Kindle edition \$7.91

Learn to Study the Bible: Forty Different Step-by-Step Methods to Help You Discover, Apply and Enjoy God's Word

Andy Deane

Xulon Press ISBN: 978-1-60791-576-8

Amazon: \$12.47

What a treasure-trove this is! After a nice introduction about who should study scripture and why we should be diligent in doing so and a brief discussion of the inductive Bible study method, Deane presents 40 different (some more creative than others) ways to enjoy the study of Scripture. Included, evidently in his own handwriting, are examples of how he personally used each method. This is ideal for the individual who is easily bored and likes the challenge of getting the most from God's word creatively. It falls short however, in providing the safeguards that a more precise method should give, so use this resource wisely and with some discernment. We can see though where it could be a great resource for teaching in a community group where you have various skill levels and learning styles.

Journey into God's Word: Your Guide to Understanding and Applying the Bible

J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays

Zondervan ISBN:978-0310275138

Amazon: \$11.69

By the same authors of Grasping God's Word (the text used at EBC) this is an abridgment of that work and provides "hands-on exercises to help you read, interpret, and apply biblical passages with thoughtfulness and integrity". This is a thorough teaching of the inductive Bible study method without the scholarly requirements of the college text. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and personal assignments that allow you to apply what you have learned. Perfect for the lay person who wants challenging teaching but perhaps has less time to devote to the process yet still has desire to understand the Scriptures accurately. Like Grasping God's Word, its emphasis is on real-life application.

Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible

Howard G. and William D. Hendricks

Moody Publishers

ISBN:0802408168

Amazon: \$12.91

This is the text that a bunch of us used to learn how to study the Bible. It has been used around Cornerstone for years, and many people have truly enjoyed learning about God's Word through this resource. Howard Hendricks is one of the most respected professors to ever come out of Dallas Theological Seminary. Not only because of his grasp of Scripture, but more importantly of how Scripture changed his life. He comes at the topic of Bible study from a traditional hermeneutics approach, with insight from years of Bible study. It is great for someone beginning to learn how to study Scripture.

Grasping God's Word

J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays

Zondervan

ISBN: 0310228328

Amazon: \$22.00

This is the text that is used at EBC for Bible Study Methods. It is a pretty simple book that teaches you how to correctly study the Bible, but what is good about it is the discussions on how specifically to study the Old and New Testaments. For those who desire to learn more about studying the Scriptures, it has great insights areas that most of the other books don't go, but it never gets boring or too heady.

PM421 Missional Leadership

Matt Moore and Various Pastors

Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm

The Missional Leadership course is designed to provide an introduction to the lifestyle of pastoral ministry. The course could be viewed in three sections: the biblical framework of missional leadership, the identity of the missional leader, and the practical pastoral responsibilities of leading a people towards God's gospel purpose. The course begins by providing an overview of the story of God then focusing specifically on the centerpiece of human history ^ the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel defines God's mission and His vehicle to accomplish His mission ^ the church. With this biblical framework established, the following section identifies those whom God has called to lead His church into this mission. These leaders are entrusted with the unique responsibility of aligning God's people with His gospel. The final section of the course covers some of the practical responsibilities of shepherding people. There will be discussion on how to equip members of the body for mutual edification/discipleship, how to identify heart issues and address these issues with the gospel, and how

to mobilize people to declare and demonstrate the gospel in their locale. Other practical pastoral ministry topics that will be discussed are baptism, the Lord's Supper, leading your community through various seasons of life (i.e. marriage, parenting, death) and leading your community to care for orphans and widows, the poor and social outcast, and the sick and suffering.

BI101 Bible Study Methods

Doug Main

Thursday, 9:00-11:50 am

This is an introduction to basic Bible study methods and rules of interpretation. You will develop skills in observation, interpretation and application. The course will include instruction as well as a significant amount of hands-on application to portions of Scripture. Doug has taught this class now for about 5 years and you won't regret taking it.