



METWomen Workshop

# How to Study the Bible

October 23, 2019





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## METWomen Workshop

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October 2019

*All Bible quotations are taken from the ESV, except where otherwise noted.*



## How to Study the Bible (an introduction)

### Why study the Bible?

- It's \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ works through the \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Peter 1:21

Ephesians 6:17

- It enables us to \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians. 3:16)*

- We want to \_\_\_\_\_.

## What do we study?

- The \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 17:10-14 - "...they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (v. 11)

- Tools: see resources list

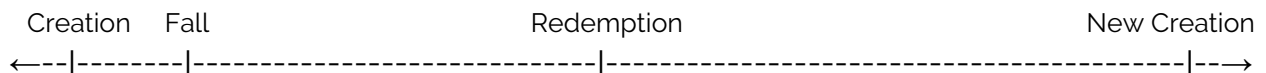
Translations: some options good for study are the ESV, NIV, NASB, etc.

Compare!

Avoid using a study Bible for reading and study - use commentaries later.

- The Story of Scripture

The Bible is a \_\_\_\_\_.



## How do we study?

- Working with a framework helps us to be orderly and thoughtful in our study.

1. Prepare your \_\_\_\_\_ - pray, confess, consider

2. \_\_\_\_\_ and think (and note questions)

\*\*\*\*\*

3. Dig In

**C**ontext  
**O**bservation  
**M**eaning  
**A**pplication

## **C - Context**

- Who? To whom? When? What style?
- Where does it fit in the story of scripture?
- What is going on/why was the book written?
- Often these questions can be answered from within the text. Sometimes you might get help from a Study Bible or Bible Dictionary (but just about the context at this point, not about the text!)

### **Context in Psalm 100:**



## O - Observation

- *What does it say?*
- Read and re-read. Compare translations.
- Notice:

Characters

Words: repeating words, "big theological idea" words (like salvation or redemption...), connecting words (for, therefore, because...)

Word pictures, contrasts, comparisons

Differences between translations

- Make connections:

Cross-references

Things you've seen or learned before

### Observation in Psalm 100:

#### Psalm 100

<sup>o</sup>[Ps. 50:14]

**1**<sup>p</sup>See Ps. 66:1

**2**<sup>q</sup>[Ps. 2:11] <sup>r</sup>[Ps. 95:2]

**3**<sup>s</sup>1 Kgs. 18:39 <sup>t</sup>See Ps. 95:6; Job 10:3, 8 <sup>u</sup>Isa. 43:1 <sup>v</sup>Ezek. 34:30 <sup>w</sup>See Ps. 74:1

**4**<sup>x</sup>[Ps. 66:13] <sup>y</sup>Ps. 96:8 <sup>z</sup>Ps. 96:2

**5**<sup>a</sup>Ps. 25:8; 106:1; 119:68; 2 Chr. 5:13; Ezra 3:11; Jer. 33:11; Nah. 1:7

*(cross-references taken from the ESV Reference Bible)*

## **M - Meaning**

- What have you learned through observation?
  
- Identify main points
  - Paraphrase paragraph by paragraph
  - Arrange into outline
  
- Then boil down that paraphrase into one key sentence
  
- Practical tips:
  - Allow time to think - may do this over several days
  - Pray often ("without ceasing" is a good phrase for Bible study!)
  
- *After* you have worked through a passage and struggled to understand it, go to trusted commentaries to confirm/clarify/resolve (see resources)

### **Meaning in Psalm 100:**

## A - Application

- Can only come out of meaning - avoid 'twisted' applications (that don't fit the text)
- Pay attention to the Story of Scripture
- Questions to ask:
  - What have I learned about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What have I learned about His \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What have I learned about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - How does this impact \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What should be my \_\_\_\_\_?
- Application \_\_\_\_\_. Meaning is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Application in Psalm 100:**

## Psalm 100

ESV

*A Psalm for giving thanks.*

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!
- 3 Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- 5 For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

NIV

*A psalm. For giving grateful praise.*

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

(don't read the commentary below until we've worked through the COMA steps!)

## Psalm 100 - ESV Study Bible Commentary

This hymn, though not explicitly a psalm celebrating God's kingship, brings the collection of kingship hymns to a close with its exuberant call to come before the Lord in worship. Like the divine kingship psalms, this hymn invites "all the earth" (i.e., all the Gentiles) to join the song of praise. The title declares that this psalm is "for giving thanks." That is certainly fitting, as the worshipers thank the universal Creator for the privilege of being "the sheep of his pasture." The term "giving thanks" (Hb. *todah*) can also be the name for the thanksgiving offering, one kind of peace offering (Lev. 7:12–15). Since the peace offering is a meal enjoyed in God's presence, this too is fitting for the psalm; but there is no reason to be so specific. Further, Ps. 100:4 uses the word in its ordinary sense (in parallel with "praise"). There are several phrases shared between this psalm and Psalm 95, as the notes will point out.

**Ps. 100:1 joyful noise.** Cf. 95:1–2. Also rendered, "shout for joy" (66:1). **all the earth.** The Lord is the Creator of all people, not just Israel; and Israel exists to bring light to the entire earth.

**Ps. 100:2 gladness ... singing.** Awareness of the goodness of God (v. 5) and of the great privilege of worshiping him produces joy in those who know they are welcome in his presence.

**Ps. 100:3 he who made us.** This could be a reference to God's work as Creator of all; but, in view of what follows in the verse, it seems to be more specifically, "made us [Israel] to be his people." **and we are his.** Earlier English translations read "not" in place of "his" (see ESV footnote, "and not we ourselves"); the Hebrew for both sounds almost identical ("his," Hb. *lo*; "not," Hb. *lo*'), but "his" is the better reading. **his people, and the sheep of his pasture.** For the image of God's people as his sheep and the Lord as their shepherd, see note on 74:1–3. See also 95:7.

**Ps. 100:4 gates ... courts.** Parts of the temple complex.

**Ps. 100:5 good.** Full of generosity (cf. 23:6; 25:7–8). **steadfast love ... faithfulness.** These terms evoke Ex. 34:6; the foundation of joy for God's people is his enduring character of gracious love, of keeping his promises. **to all generations.** Exodus 34:7 says that God keeps his steadfast love "for thousands," which, in view of Deut. 7:9, is probably "generations in their thousands." The worshipers delight to think of the people of God being preserved forever, and of the prospect of their own descendants being members of that people (cf. Gen. 17:7; Ps. 103:17–18); this, too, is the measure of God's enduring love.

### **Practice: 1 Peter 1:3-21**

- Read
- Context:
- Observation: (see tools on following pages)

- Meaning:

- Application:

## 1 Peter 1:3-21

### ESV

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” <sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.



## 1 Peter 1:3-21

### NIV

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

## Chapter 1

- 1**<sup>a</sup>See James 1:1  
**2**<sup>b</sup>Acts 2:23; [Rom. 8:29; 11:2] <sup>c</sup>See 1 Thess. 4:3 <sup>d</sup>Heb. 10:22; 12:24  
<sup>e</sup>2 Pet. 1:2 <sup>f</sup>Dan. 4:1; Jude 2  
**3**<sup>g</sup>2 Cor. 1:3; Eph. 1:3 <sup>h</sup>Titus 3:5 <sup>i</sup>ver. 23 <sup>j</sup>ch. 3:21; [1 Cor. 15:20]  
**4**<sup>k</sup>Rom. 8:17 <sup>l</sup>[ch. 5:4] <sup>m</sup>[Col. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:8]  
**5**<sup>n</sup>Eph. 2:8 <sup>o</sup>[ch. 5:10; Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17; Heb. 12:11]  
**6**<sup>p</sup>James 1:2; [ch. 4:12]  
**7**<sup>q</sup>James 1:3 <sup>r</sup>Job 23:10; Ps. 66:10; Prov. 17:3; Isa. 48:10 <sup>s</sup>1 Cor. 3:13 <sup>t</sup>Rom. 2:7, 10; 1 Cor. 4:5; [2 Thess. 1:7-12]  
**8**<sup>u</sup>[1 John 4:20] <sup>v</sup>[Heb. 11:27]; See John 20:29  
**9**<sup>w</sup>Rom. 6:22  
**10**<sup>x</sup>2 Pet. 1:19; [Dan. 8:15; Matt. 13:17; Luke 10:24]  
**11**<sup>y</sup>Dan. 9:24-26 <sup>z</sup>Rom. 8:9; [2 Pet. 1:21]; See Acts 16:7 <sup>a</sup>See Matt. 26:24 <sup>b</sup>Isa. 52:13-53:12; Luke 24:26; Acts 3:18  
**12**<sup>c</sup>Dan. 12:4, 9, 13 <sup>d</sup>[Matt. 13:17; Heb. 11:39, 40] <sup>e</sup>Acts 2:2-4 <sup>f</sup>[Dan. 8:13; 12:5-7; Eph. 3:10]  
**13**<sup>g</sup>See Luke 12:35 <sup>h</sup>ch. 4:7; 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:6, 8; 2 Tim. 4:5

- 18**<sup>i</sup>[Ps. 49:8; 130:8; 1 Cor. 6:20; Titus 2:14; 2 Pet. 2:1] <sup>j</sup>See Eph. 4:17  
**19**<sup>k</sup>See Acts 20:28 <sup>l</sup>See John 1:29 <sup>m</sup>Heb. 9:14; [Ex. 12:5]  
**20**<sup>n</sup>See Rom. 16:26 <sup>o</sup>Heb. 1:2  
**21**<sup>p</sup>John 12:44 <sup>q</sup>[Rom. 10:9]; See Acts 2:24 <sup>r</sup>Acts 3:13; Heb. 2:9; [ch. 3:22]; See John 7:39  
**22**<sup>s</sup>Rom. 12:9; See Heb. 13:1 <sup>t</sup>1 Tim. 1:5  
**23**<sup>u</sup>ver. 3; [John 3:3; James 1:18] <sup>v</sup>John 1:13 <sup>w</sup>Heb. 4:12  
**24**<sup>x</sup>James 1:10, 11; Cited from Isa. 40:6, 8  
**25**<sup>y</sup>[Matt. 24:35] <sup>z</sup>Isa. 40:9

*(cross-references taken from the ESV Reference Bible)*

(don't read the commentary below until you've worked through the COMA steps!)

## 1 Peter 1:3-21 - ESV Study Bible Commentary

**1:3–12 Praise for Salvation.** Peter begins the body of the letter by blessing God because he has given believers new life and guaranteed their future glory (vv. 3–5). Believers rejoice in their sufferings because they are designed for their purity (vv. 6–9). Christians are wonderfully blessed, for they know the fulfillment of OT prophecies, all of which point to Christ (vv. 10–12).

**1:3** Salvation is due to God's mercy, grace, and sovereignty, for he miraculously gave sinners new life (**caused us to be born again**, cf. v. 23). Peter may be connecting "born again" to **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ**, meaning that the new birth was made possible because God thought of those who believe in Christ as being united to him in his resurrection (cf. Rom. 6:4; Eph. 1:19–20; 2:5–6; Col. 3:1). Or he may be linking the resurrection to the **living hope** of believers, since that hope immediately follows the resurrection. In the latter case, the hope of Christians is their future resurrection. Believers have an unshakable hope for the future, for Christ's resurrection is a pledge of their own future resurrection.

**1:4** The "hope" of v. 3 is now described as an **inheritance**, which in the OT typically describes the Promised Land and Israel's place in it (Num. 32:19; Deut. 2:12; 12:9; 25:19; 26:1; Josh. 11:23; Ps. 105:11). But the OT inheritance points ahead to an even greater inheritance, reserved **in heaven** for the people of the new covenant. **imperishable**. Nothing can tarnish or extinguish that secure inheritance.

**1:5 Salvation** in this context is a further description of the inheritance of v. 4 and the hope of v. 3. Peter lifts his readers' minds to what will **be revealed in the last time**. They will certainly receive this future salvation, for God will protect them through his **power** by sustaining their **faith** to the end.

**1:6–7** Peter realizes that joy is mingled with grief as Christians in Asia Minor suffer **various trials**. **Little while** denotes the whole of their earthly life before they inherit future salvation. **if necessary**. These sufferings are God's will for his people, so that their **faith** might be purified and shown to be genuine. Such faith has a great reward, for at the **revelation** (that is, the return) **of Jesus Christ, honor** and **praise** will belong both to Christians and to Christ.

**1:8–9 Joy** is not reserved only for the future when Jesus will be clearly seen at his revelation (v. 7). Even now, his followers **love him, believe in him, and rejoice** with an **inexpressible joy**. The end result is eternal **salvation**—the completion of God's saving work.

**1:10–11** Even though the OT **prophets** did not see clearly when their prophecies would be realized, they did foretell that Christ would suffer and then be glorified. See Overview of the Bible. **The Spirit of Christ** is the Holy Spirit, who was speaking through the prophets.

**1:12** Christians have received astounding blessings, for the OT prophets **were serving not themselves but you**, that is, NT believers, and **angels long** to understand fully what has been accomplished. Christians have heard this good news in the gospel proclaimed to them.

**1:13–21 The Future Inheritance as an Incentive to Holiness.** The inheritance promised to followers of Christ should motivate them to set their hope entirely on their future reward (vv. 13–16) and to live in fear of the God who redeemed them at the cost of his own Son (vv. 17–21).

**1:13 set your hope fully.** The fullness of **grace** and its complete work will come only when Jesus returns, and believers are to long for that day. They do so by thinking rightly about reality and by living **sober-minded** and sensible lives in this present evil age.

**1:14–15** While living on this earth, Christians have to fight the desires of sin, so they are called to be **obedient children**, separated from evil in all that they do. They are to **be holy** (cf. Lev. 18:2–4), for that accords with the character of God who **is holy** and has **called** believers to himself.

**1:17 Father who judges impartially** may refer only to the final judgment, when believers will be judged according to their **deeds** (cf. Rom. 2:6, 16; 2 Cor. 5:10). More likely, Peter has in mind both this present life and the last day as well. God is not only the Father of his people but also their judge. **Fear** is not a paralyzing terror but a fear of God’s discipline and fatherly displeasure; it is a reverence and awe that should characterize the lives of believers during their **exile** (cf. 1 Pet. 1:1) on this earth.

**1:18–19** The reason for the call to fear (v. 17) is given in vv. 18–19. Believers were ransomed by Christ’s **precious blood**. “Ransom” recalls Israel’s deliverance from Egypt (Deut. 7:8; 9:26; 15:15; 24:18), which in turn points to the greater deliverance accomplished by Jesus Christ. Believers are delivered from a life of futility and meaninglessness to one of great significance. **you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers.** Christ’s sacrifice breaks the inevitability and power of “generational sin,” the idea that the sins of parents and grandparents are often repeated in later generations (cf. Ex. 20:5–6). Christ’s sacrifice is compared to a **lamb without blemish or spot**. The references to “lamb” and “blood” point to the OT sacrifices and especially to Christ as the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12) and the servant of the Lord (cf. “lamb,” Isa. 53:7). As the perfect sacrifice, Christ atoned for the sins of the unrighteous (cf. John 1:29; 1 Pet. 3:18).

**1:20–21** Christians should live in holy fear (v. 17) because they are deeply loved and should not despise that love. God planned (Christ was **foreknown**, cf. v. 2) from eternity past when he would send Christ, and he chose to reveal him at the time in history when these believers lived (**for the sake of you**) so that they would enjoy the inexpressible privilege of living in the days of fulfillment (cf. vv. 10–12). They should be full of **hope** (hope functions as an *inclusio*—a literary envelope—beginning and ending this section; vv. 13, 21), for Christ’s being raised reminds them of their future reward.

## Resources

- *Women of the Word*, Wilkin, Crossway
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, Fee and Stuart, Zondervan (includes useful discussion about Bible genres and choosing translations)
- *ESV Study Bible*, Crossway
- *New Bible Dictionary*, Intervarsity Press
- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) (for comparing translations and printing text for study)
- [www.biblestudytools.com/esv/](http://www.biblestudytools.com/esv/) (printable text, free study resources)
- List of good commentaries for every Bible book: (check your church library!)  
<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/top-commentaries-on-every-book-of-the-bible/>
- On the wise use of study Bibles:  
[www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/recalculating-how-study-bibles-can-limit-bible-study/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/recalculating-how-study-bibles-can-limit-bible-study/)



