How to Study Your Bible

Session 1: Overview

I. Why the Bible?

- The Holy Bible was ___________ by men, divinely ___________ by God and perfectly communicates God’s instruction to man. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- The Bible tells the story of God’s ___________ for man, man’s ___________, and God’s eternal ___________ of man starting with the beginning of time until the end of time.
- IMPORTANT: The Bible was NOT written to be a ___________. If you read it like one, you’ll get tripped up.

II. Structure of the Bible

- There are 66 “books” of the Bible separated into two major sections. The Old Testament (39) and The New Testament (27).
- The Old Testament
  - Begins with ___________ and tells of God’s interaction with his chosen people, ___________.
  - The Old Testament represents the complete Holy Scriptures of ___________ people to this day (Hebrew Bible)
  - The 39 Books of the Old Testament are separated into three different sections:
    - ___________
    - ___________
    - ___________
  - If you know what kind of book you are reading, then you will know what kind of information to expect, and you can follow the flow.
  - Many of us make the mistake of assuming that the whole Bible is one long, unbroken story and that it flowed congruently from one book to the next.
• The New Testament
  o Begins with the incarnation of ___________ and tells of His life and ministry as well as that of His ___________ as they carried on after his death & resurrection.
  o The 27 Books of the New Testament are separated into 3 different sections
    ▪ ___________
    ▪ ___________
    ▪ ___________
  o If you know what kind of book you are reading, then you will know what kind of information to expect, and you can easily follow the flow.

• Canonization
  o There are certain books that are ______________ as “canon,” and others that are not.
  o The primary requirements were ______________ of authorship, and with the undisputed teachings of Jesus.
  o Synod of Laodicea (363) – Forbade the reading of “non-canonical” books. 26 books.
  o Council of Hippo (393) – Confirmed the list of 27 New Testament Books.

III. Translation of the Bible
• The Bible was originally written in the native languages of ____________, ____________, and ____________.
• The Bible began to be translated in ______________ in the early 17th Century from the most reliable original scripts at the time.
• Know Your Versions!
  o Translations (KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV, NLT, ESV)
  o Paraphrases (The Living Bible; The Message)
Session 2: The Old Testament

I. Historical/Narrative Books

A. The ______________ Era (Genesis 1-11)
   - Major Figure: ______________
   - Main Location: ______________
   - There are four major sections of the Creation Era
     - ______________: Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1-2)
     - ______________: Sin entered the world (Genesis 3)
     - ______________: Judgment for Sin (Genesis 6-10)
     - ______________: Beginning of the Nations (Genesis 11)

B. The ______________ Era (Genesis 12-50)
   - The birth of the ______________ people through a family of patriarchs, covering a period of two hundred years
   - Major Figure: ______________
   - Main Location: ______________
   - There are four main men of this era:
     - ______________: Father of the Hebrew People (Genesis 12-23)
     - ______________: Second Father of Promise (Genesis 24-26)
     - ______________: Father of the Nation of Israel (Genesis 27-35)
     - ______________: Leader in Egypt (Genesis 37-50)

C. The ______________ Era (Exodus-Deuteronomy)
   - The ______________ of the Hebrew people as they are delivered out of four hundred years of slavery in Egypt.
   - Major Figure: ______________
   - Main Location: ______________
   - There are four major sections of this era:
     - ______________: Freedom from Slavery in Egypt (Exodus 1-18)
     - ______________: God’s Commandments at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-40)
D. The ___________ Era (Joshua)
   - The conquest of the ___________ _________ by the Hebrew people upon their return from Egypt.
   - Major Figure: ________________
   - Main Location: ________________
   - There are four main events of the Conquest Era
     - ________________: A Miraculous Parting of the Water (Joshua 1-5)
     - ________________: A Miraculous Conquest of a City (Joshua 6)
     - ________________: The Defeat of Canaan (Joshua 7-12)
     - ________________: Finalizing Dominion (Joshua 13-20)

E. The ___________ Era (Judges-Ruth)
   - A four hundred year period during which Israel is governed by rulers called Judges.
   - Major Figure: ________________
   - Main Location: ________________
   - There are four main subjects in the Judges Era:
     - ________________: The Leaders of Israel
     - ________________: The Breaking of God’s Law
     - ________________: Repetition of Israel’s Misfortunes
     - ________________: A Model Woman

F. The ___________ Era (1 Samuel-2 Chronicles)
   - An additional four hundred year period during which Israel becomes a full-fledged nation ruled by a monarchy.
   - Major Figure: ________________
   - Main Location: ________________
   - There are four main periods of the Kingdom Era:
     - ________________ (1 and 2 Samuel)
• ________________: A Civil War (1 Kings)
• ________________: (2 Kings)
• ________________: (2 Kings)

G. The ________________ Era (Daniel-Ezekiel*)
   • A seventy-year period during which Israel's leaders live in exile, having been ____________ by foreign countries.
   • Major Figure: ________________
   • Main Location: ________________

H. The ________________ Era (Ezra-Esther)
   • The return of exiled Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple.
   • Major Figure: ________________
   • Main Location: ________________
   • There are four major subjects in the Return Era:
     • ________________: Destruction from War & Neglect (Nehemiah 1:1-3)
     • ________________: Rebuilding the Temple (Ezra 1-6)
     • ________________: Spiritual Rebuilding (Ezra 7-10)
     • ________________: Restoration Complete (Nehemiah)

I. The ________________ Era
   • A final four-hundred year period between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament.
   • Major Figures: ________________
   • Main Location: ________________

II. Poetic Books
   A. Three Major Types of Hebrew Poetry
      • ________________ Poetry – to be accompanied by music, like a song (i.e. Psalm 3; Psalm 42; Psalm 121; Psalm 150)
      • ________________ Poetry – to teach principles of living through short sayings (i.e. Proverbs 21)
      • ________________ Poetry – a narrative that tells a story in poetic form (i.e. Proverbs 7; Job)
B. Five Poetic Books
   - _________________: Suffering and God’s Sovereignty
   - _________________: Praise in Public Worship
   - _________________: Wisdom, Skill for Living
   - _________________: Futility of Temporal Pursuits
   - _________________: God’s Marriage Manual

III. Prophetic Books
   - *Prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God, both for the future and in the present.*
   - Designation: Types of Prophets
     - _________________ Prophets
       - Isaiah; Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel; Daniel
     - _________________ Prophets
   - Time Period
     - _________________ (12)
       - To Israel: Hosea; Amos
       - To Judah: Habakkuk; Isaiah; Jeremiah; Joel; Micah; Zephaniah; Lamentations
       - To Assyria: Jonah; Nahum
       - To Edom: Obadiah
     - _________________ (2)
       - Ezekiel; Daniel
     - _________________ (3)
       - Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi
   - Types of Prophecy
     - _________________: Predicting the Future
     - _________________: Proclaiming the Teachings of God
       - Exposing sin and calling people to a higher moral standard
       - Warning of judgment if the people don’t reform
       - Proclaiming the Coming Messiah
Session 3: The New Testament

I. Historical/Narrative Books

A. The __________ Era (Matthew-John)
   - Jesus comes in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of a __________
     that offers __________ and the true kingdom of God. While some __________ Him, most __________ Him and He is crucified, buried, and resurrected.
     - Matthew: Written to __________ to portray Jesus as __________
     - Mark: Written to __________ and portrays Jesus as the __________.
     - Luke: Written to __________ as a __________ of Jesus’ life.
     - John: Written to a wide audience to portray Jesus as __________.

B. Four Main Divisions in the Gospel Era
   - Early __________: Childhood to Baptism
   - __________ Ministry: Initial Acceptance
   - __________ Ministry: Growing Rejection
   - Death & Resurrection: Final Rejection

B. The __________ Era (Acts 1-12)
   - Peter, shortly after the ascension of Jesus, is used by God to establish the church, God’s next major plan for man.

B. Four Major Subjects in the Church Era
   - __________: Birth of the Church (Acts 1-5)
   - __________: Organization of the Church (Acts 6)
   - __________: The First Christian Martyr (Acts 7)
   - __________: A Missionary to the Gentiles (Acts 8-12)

C. The __________ Era (Acts 13-28)
   - Paul expands the church into the __________ over the next two decades

C. Four Major Subjects in the Missions Era
   i. First Missionary Journey: __________ for 2 Years (Acts 13-14)
   ii. Second Missionary Journey: __________ for 3 Years (Acts 15-17)
Third Missionary Journey: ________ for 4 Years (Acts 18-21)
Trials & Imprisonment: ________ Prison for 2 Years (Acts 22-28)

II. Epistles & Revelation

A. What is an Epistle?
   - ________ written to churches, individuals, or in some cases, the Christian public at large.
   - Deal with specific problems and issues of the day, but do so in a way that the information is ________ and ________.
   - Typical pattern is to write a section of ________ truth and follow up with practical ________ of that truth.

B. Pauline Epistles to the ________.
   - Romans
   - 1 and 2 Corinthians
   - Galatians
   - Ephesians
   - Philippians
   - Colossians
   - 1 and 2 Thessalonians

C. Pauline Epistles to ________.
   - 1 and 2 Timothy
   - Titus
   - Philemon

D. ________ Epistles
   - Hebrews
   - James
   - 1 and 2 Peter
   - 1, 2, and 3 John
   - Jude

III. Revelation
Session 4: Observation

I. The Setting

A. Who?
   o Who ________________ this?
   o Who is ________________?
   o Who are they speaking ________?
   o Who are the speaking ________________?
   o Who are the ________ characters?
   o Who are the ________ characters?
   o What do you ____________ about these people?

B. What?
   o What is the ____________ of the passage?
   o What is ________________?
   o What is being ________________?
   o What are the ____________ ________________ in the passage?
   o What do these terms ________________?

C. When?
   o When does this take place in ________________?
   o What ____________ or ________________ markers does the text offer us?
   o When did these events take place within the overall ________________?
   o When did this take place in the ________________?

D. Where?
   o What do you know about the ________________ in the story?
   o What do you know about the ________________ of the setting?
II. Learn How to Read
   A. Read ______________
   B. Read ______________
   C. Read ______________
   D. Read ______________
   E. Read ______________
   F. Read ______________
   G. Read ______________
   H. Read ______________
   I. Read ______________

III. What to Look for
   A. Things that are ____________________.
   B. Things that are ____________________.
   C. Things that are ____________________.
   D. Things that are ________________ or ____________________.
   E. Things that are ________________________________.
Session 5: Interpretation

I. What is Interpretation?
   A. Interpretation answers the question, “what does this ____________?”
   B. Getting Over the Barriers
      1. ________________ Barriers
      2. ________________ Barriers
      3. ________________ Barriers
      4. ________________ Barriers
   C. Understanding types of literature
      1. Narrative and Biography
      2. Parables
      3. Poetry
      4. Epistles
      5. Proverbs/Wisdom Literature
      6. Prophecy/Apocalyptic Literature

II. 5 Keys to Interpretation
   A. Content
   B. Context
      1. A text without context is ________________
      2. Consider the text in light of:
         ▪ The surrounding ____________ and ________________.
         ▪ The ____________ in which it is found
   C. Comparison
      1. To Other ________________
         ▪ Scripture will Never ________________ Scripture
         ▪ Is my interpretation consistent with what the entire ________________ says?
      2. To Proper ________________
         ▪ Is my interpretation consistent with trusted Christian ____________?
         ▪ If you have a new interpretation, it’s likely ________________.
D. Culture
   - The __________ of the day shed light on what the text is saying.
   - We err when we superimpose __________ culture on the Biblical text.

E. Consultation
   - An Exhaustive Concordance
   - A Bible Dictionary
   - Bible Handbooks
   - Atlases
   - Bible Commentaries
   - Study Bibles

III. Figuring out the Figurative
   A. Use the __________ sense unless there is good reason not to
   B. Use the figurative sense when the __________ tells you to do so
   C. Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning is __________ or __________.
   D. Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning would involve something __________.
   E. Use the figurative sense if the expression is an obvious __________ __________ __________.
   F. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the __________ and __________ of the passage
   G. Use the figurative if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the general __________ and __________ of the book
   H. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation involves a __________ of other Scripture.
   I. Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation would involve a contradiction in __________.
Session 6: Interpretation

I. Principles of Application (2 Timothy 3:16)
   • “To know and not do is not to know at all.” ~Hendricks
   • There is one ________________, but can be countless ________________.
   • If you get the interpretation ________________, you’ll probably get the application ________________.
     A. Teaching
     B. Reproof
     C. Correction
     D. Training in Righteousness

II. Four Steps in Application
   A. ________________
      o The Biblical ________________
      o ________________ (Romans 12:3)
      o Sound ________________ (1 Timothy 4:16)
   B. ________________
      o Connecting the ________________ with your ________________.
      o Christocentrism – Making Jesus Christ the central ________________ of the text and your life.
   C. ________________
      o Think on the text throughout the ________________.
      o Spend quiet time prayerfully ________________ the text
   D. ________________
      o Is there someplace in my life where this truth is needed?
      o Build ________________ and ________________ into your life around the issue.
III. Nine Questions to Ask

A. Is there an ____________ for me to follow?

B. Is there a ____________ to avoid? (i.e. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

C. Is there an ____________, ____________, or ____________ that I need to shift?

D. Is there a ____________ to embrace? (i.e. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

E. Is there a ____________ to repeat? (i.e. Psalm 51; Matthew 6)

F. Is there a ____________ to obey? (i.e. Matthew 26:36-40)

G. Is there a ____________ to meet? (i.e. John 15:7)

H. Is there a verse to ____________?

I. Is there an ____________ to mark?

J. Is there a ____________ to face?