

A Chapter Summary Method of Bible Study

In this study method we attempt to gain an understanding of the contents of any given chapter (or section) of the Bible by reading it in its entirety several times.

A. Getting Started

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your ears and heart!
2. Read the chapter from a Bible without notes in order to encourage fresh insights rather than reaffirming those already found.
3. Read the chapter without stopping in order to get a feel for the flow of the chapter.
4. Read the chapter in at least two or three translations noting important differences discovered.
5. Read the chapter aloud to yourself as an aid to concentration.

B. Suggested Steps

Box 1 - Title - Give the chapter a short but descriptive title or heading. Headings that are simple and short are helpful.

Box 2 - Outline or contents of this section of scripture - Make a list or outline of the major points of the chapter.

Box 3 - Key people - Make a list of the major individuals and geographical locations from within the chapter. (Some reference to the surrounding chapters may be necessary.)

Box 4 - Key verse - Select a verse that is significant in the chapter or which you find is important during this study. And/or one verse that can summarize the section.

Box 5 - Key word(s) - Make a list of the key word(s) of the chapter. If you want, mark each key word in a distinctive way. Then make a list of everything you find about those words on a separate piece of paper. (Keep adding to the lists as you move through the chapters.)

Box 6 - Challenges - List any difficulties you may have with the chapter. What don't you understand? Difficulties you still need to study. Are there areas of your life that need changing with the help of the Holy Spirit?

Box 7 - Cross references - Use your Bibles (or other study helps) to find cross-references to other passages in the Bible that help you to understand this chapter.

Box 8 - Christ revealed - Since the Bible as a whole is the revelation of Jesus Christ, it should be possible to find His presence in all areas of the Bible. Find out what you can discover of the nature, ministry, or person of Christ from this chapter.

Box 9 - Central lesson(s) - List the major lessons taught in the chapter that you have learned at this time. (Next time you study this chapter; entirely new insights may become evident.)

Box 10 – Personal application - Here you will begin to apply what you have learned. Two questions you can ask yourself during any application of the Bible are:

- 1 - How do these insights apply to me personally?
- 2 - What am I going to do about them?

C. Go live it out!

Adapted from:

<http://www.eachnewday.com/HowToStudyTheBible/BibleStudyMethods.html>