

Transformational Bible Study Method Questions

STEP ONE: INTENT

What did God intend His original audience to understand?

STEP TWO: TRUTH

What truths does God's Word reveal about the character, nature, and ways of our triune God, and that of anyone or anything other than Him?

STEP THREE: TRANSFORMATION

If I truly believe and act on what God has revealed in His Word, how will the desires and attitudes of my heart transform and my actions be different tomorrow? What does it look like to believe and obey?

Discovering God's Word

Transformational Truths

Week 1

Day 1 — We'll never truly know the God of the Word apart from the Word of God.

Day 2 — It's never too late to be transformed. Christ restores, equips, and empowers His children.

Day 3 — What we think about God determines what we think about everything else.

Day 4 — Trials reveal the truth about our faith and God's faithfulness.

Day 5 — God's Word always does God's work in God's people.

Week 2

Day 1 — The truth sets us free. Anything else destroys.

Day 2 — Christ is the overarching context of everything in life and Scripture.

Day 3 — When Christ redeems, fruitfulness follows.

Day 4 — Reverent fear of Christ calms all other fears.

Day 5 — Do not fear, only believe.

Week 3

Day 1 — Pride is the root—and fuel—of sin. Jesus is the cure.

Day 2 — No matter how much culture or history changes, Christ remains the same.

Day 3 — When the whole Bible shapes our doctrine, the Bible's doctrines shape us into the image of Christ. Know the Word. Know the Word. Know the Word.

Day 4 — If we don't learn to follow Christ in faith and humility, we'll follow the path to destruction and shame.

Day 5 — When Christ enters a life, He flips the script.

Week 4

Day 1 — Listen to Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. Follow Him from the cross to radiant glory.

Day 2 — Effective prayer says, “I can’t, Father, but You can. Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.”

Day 3 — Jesus grounds our feet in the truth, and His gospel of grace, mercy, and love sends our hearts and minds into the heights of heaven.

Day 4 — Once upon an always, there was, is, and forever will be our loving, gracious, and holy Savior.

Day 5 — Every need of the heart, every longing of our soul, finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

Week 5

Day 1 — When we behold our King, our King’s glory holds our hearts.

Day 2 — Christ makes all who trust in Him abound in fruit in every season. And in every season, God is making us more like the image of Christ.

Day 3 — In Christ, God loves us anyway.

Day 4 — Seek to be right. Always be humble.

Day 5 — Be on guard. Stay awake. But let Satan tremble, not you. You have Christ and all His promises.

Week 6

Day 1 — A life “wasted” for Christ is a fragrant aroma to the Lord.

Day 2 — Study and pray, then rise and obey.

Day 3 — Our trials expose and refine what we truly believe about Jesus.

Day 4 — God uses the whole Bible to build in us a whole faith.

Day 5 — The choices we make today affect our faith tomorrow.

Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Principles

Week 1

Day 1

- ✓ Knowing the Bible author's *intent* helps us better interpret God's authoritative *truth*, which leads to authentic *transformation* for all who belong to Christ and believe His Word.
- ✓ Keep the *Intent*, *Truth*, and *Transformation* questions in mind whenever you study the Bible.

Day 2

- ✓ Intent Question: What did God intend His original audience to understand?
- ✓ The Bible was written *for* us, not *to* us.
- ✓ The Bible is one connected story. A question in one book is often answered in another.
- ✓ Study Bibles and Bible handbooks offer book introductions that summarize each Bible book's author, audience, date, and purpose for his message.

Day 3

- ✓ Truth Question, Part 1: What truths does God's Word reveal about the character, nature, and ways of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- ✓ As you study, create T-charts of truths God's Word reveals about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Day 4

- ✓ Truth Question, Part 2: What truths does God's Word reveal about the character, nature, and ways of anyone or anything other than God?
- ✓ Do we see any character traits of what we're like either before or after we've trusted in Christ?
- ✓ What does the author want us to understand about ourselves?
- ✓ How does the setting, plot, characters, or objects in the passage reveal important truths?

Day 5

- ✓ Transformation Question: If I truly believe and act on what God has revealed in this passage, how will the desires and attitudes of my heart transform and my actions be different tomorrow? What does it look like to believe and obey?
- ✓ Transformation isn't about what we *can* do, but what we *will* do *if* we truly believe.
- ✓ No matter how much we master the Bible, until the Bible masters us, we'll remain unchanged.

Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Principles

Week 2

Day 1

- ✓ Assumptions are thoughts or ideas we believe to be true without putting much, if any, thought to them.
- ✓ When you study the Bible, lay down your assumptions and examine—not cross-examine—God's Word through prayer, clarifying questions, and observation. Never put God's Word on trial.

Day 2

- ✓ The Bible explains the motivations and desires of every heart—and it explains itself.
- ✓ The context of anything is its full setting.
- ✓ To understand Scripture's true sense (and avoid nonsense) keep the text in its full context:
 1. Christ-centered context
 2. Biblical context
 3. Grammatical context
 4. Historical context
 5. Cultural context

Day 3

- ✓ When we understand the writing styles (genres), techniques (literary devices), and grammar, the Bible's meaning opens up for us.
- ✓ Parables lay a simple and relatable illustration from everyday life beside a spiritual truth to clarify its meaning. That truth reflects principles of the kingdom of God, leads the hearer to respond, and reveals the true condition of his or her heart.

Day 4

- ✓ Notice *what* the authors say and *how* they say it.
- ✓ When you study the Bible, Notice. Each. Word.
- ✓ Notice verbs and nouns—especially repeated ones.
- ✓ Don't miss the thingamabob words.
- ✓ Pay attention to sentence types.
- ✓ Consider nuances of meaning.
- ✓ Read the passages in different Bible translations.

Day 5

- ✓ The Bible authors' writing reflected their personalities, but they chose the styles and techniques that best proclaimed the message God directed them to write. Nothing is random.
- ✓ A *Markan Sandwich* is a story sandwiched between two interrupted halves of another story. The middle event spotlights the message, spiritual truth, or common theme of the sandwich. The two events relate to each other and help interpret each other.
- ✓ A *chiasm* is a writing technique that presents events, ideas, or truths and then repeats them in reverse order (ABBA).

Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Principles

Week 3

Day 1

- ✓ The events in the Bible happened in real time to real people. Historical context matters.
- ✓ For additional historical context, consult Scripture, commentaries, study Bibles, Bible encyclopedias, and trusted biblical resource websites.

Day 2

- ✓ Culture explains societies' behaviors and influences their choices. Seek to understand the cultures to better understand the text.
- ✓ The Bible often reveals the cultural context. Study Bibles, Bible encyclopedias, commentaries, and biblical resource websites can provide more information.

Day 3

- ✓ Doctrine is the teachings of the Bible that explain how we're to think and live like Christ (Ephesians 4:11–16).
- ✓ The whole Bible alone, not our culture and personal preferences, determines doctrine.
- ✓ God's Word is our perfect guardrail to keep us safe from false teachings.

Day 4

- ✓ The biblical authors chose the structure for their writings that best leads us to the truth God wants us to know. Find and follow the structure.
- ✓ Each event in a repeated series works together to highlight overarching spiritual truths.

Day 5

- ✓ Turning points in the Bible emphasize spiritual truths and move the reader to specific Christlike responses.
- ✓ In narratives, we look for a change in action. In epistles, we look for a change in teaching from what Christ has done to how we're to respond.

Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Principles

Week 4

Day 1

- ✓ God structured His Word to be interdependent—each Testament explains the other.
- ✓ The Old and New bring ah-ha! clarity to each other and to our understanding of the whole Bible and the full counsel of God's will, purposes, and plans.

Day 2

- ✓ It's easier than we realize to slip unaware from a prayer-dependent and Holy Spirit-led life into self-dependency.
- ✓ Effective prayer prays for more faith in the One who calls us and is faithful. He will do it.

Day 3

- ✓ Poetry brings a message to life in memorable and often vivid words and images.
- ✓ To interpret poetic passages, we want to experience the image, recognize the relationship, feel the emotion, and follow the logic.

Day 4

- ✓ When you study the narrative genre, immerse yourself in the characters, setting, and plot with its rising conflict, climax, and resolution.
- ✓ When you study the law genre, remember God designed all His covenants and commands (the ceremonial, moral, and civil laws) to teach us about Christ and drive us to Him.

Day 5

- ✓ God never asks questions for His benefit. He already knows everything.
- ✓ Whenever you come across one of God's questions, stop and study it. Consider what His question reveals about Himself or about the person He's questioning? What does He want them—and us—to realize, confess, or ponder?

Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Principles

Week 5

Day 1

- ✓ Possibly the most important principle we'll ever learn for studying the Bible is to behold our King.
- ✓ The Bible is all about Christ and His salvation for God's glory.

Day 2

- ✓ Throughout the Bible, God created snapshots—types, patterns, illustrations, shadows, and the like—to teach important spiritual truths, particularly about Christ and His kingdom.
- ✓ Avoid over-spiritualizing Scripture. Don't assign symbolic meaning to every object, number, event, person, and so on in the Bible.

Day 3

- ✓ The epistles are letters much like a letter from a loving father to encourage and instruct his children with what Christ has done and how we should respond.
- ✓ Find and follow the logic of the epistles to their intended conclusion.

Day 4

- ✓ Every text of Scripture has one correct interpretation—God's—and almost endless ways to rightly respond to it.
- ✓ Humility is vital when interpreting the Bible.

Day 5

- ✓ Prophecy *forthtells* and *foretells*.
- ✓ Apocalyptic literature reveals hidden mysteries through figurative language.
- ✓ Visionary genres often use storytelling techniques with setting, characters, and action—but no plot—and are more concerned with the message than with chronology.
- ✓ Keep the text in its full context.
- ✓ Assume the author meant what he said, unless the context makes it clear he's using symbolism or figurative language.

Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Principles

Week 6

Day 1

- ✓ The church is essential in the Christian life. She's God's design for all believers. Wholeheartedly join and serve your fellow members.
- ✓ Through our church, we come together to devote ourselves to the Bible's teaching, to fellowship, to the Lord's Supper, and to prayer (Acts 2:42).
- ✓ Delight to "waste" yourself in reading and studying God's Word, serving His church, and ministering with the gospel in the world.

Day 2

- ✓ You won't always interpret God's Word correctly. Continue to seek the truth and trust the Holy Spirit to teach and correct you.
- ✓ All God's Word will be fulfilled just as it was written.

Day 3

- ✓ Part of effective Bible study is checking to see how we're responding in life to the truth we're learning as we study.
- ✓ We need to check our level of three faith issues: knowledge, belief, and rebellion.
 1. Knowledge. There's something about God we don't yet fully (or correctly) understand that would settle our emotions in Him.
 2. Belief. We know the truth that defeats our troubled emotions, but we struggle to truly believe—at least in this moment.
 3. Rebellion. We know the truth, but we don't like it because we want what we want.

Day 4

- ✓ Read the Bible widely and study it deeply.
- ✓ Studying adds depth, which makes our reading more transformational. Reading adds breadth, which makes our studying more transformational.
- ✓ Our efforts don't transform us. God's Word does. Invest in your faith by investing time in God's Word.

Day 5

- ✓ Stoke your fervency to know the Lord on every page of the Bible. And respond.
- ✓ Live out what God has worked into you through His Word.
- ✓ Go in the truth of God's Word, and never give up.

Discovering God's Word Memory Verses

Week 1

Hdphgtuattptlag,
ttkohwcuthogae.

—2 Peter 1:3

ESV

Week 4

Aacot,
aavcootc,
“TimbS;lth.”

—Mark 9:7

ESV

Week 2

DybtpytGaoa,
awwhnntbarhtwot.

—2 Timothy 2:15

ESV

Week 5

TfotLitbow,
atkothOii.

—Proverbs 9:10

ESV

Week 3

OmetImbwtooyl.

—Psalm 119:18

ESV

Week 6

Stittywit.

—John 17:17

ESV

Discovering God's Word Memory Verses

Week 1

His divine power has granted to us
all things that pertain to life and
godliness, through the knowledge
of him who called us to his own
glory and excellence.
— 2 Peter 1:3

Week 4

And a cloud overshadowed them,
and a voice came out of the cloud,
“This is my beloved Son;
listen to him.”
— Mark 9:7

Week 2

Do your best to present yourself to
God as one approved, a worker who
has no need to be ashamed, rightly
handling the word of truth.
— 2 Timothy 2:15

Week 5

The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the
Holy One is insight.
— Proverbs 9:10

Week 3

Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.
— Psalm 119:18

Week 6

Sanctify them in the truth; your
word is truth.
— John 17:17

Discovering God's Word Memory Verses

Week 1

Week 4

Week 2

Week 5

Week 3

Week 6

Discovering God's Word Memory Verses

Week 1

Week 4

Week 2

Week 5

Week 3

Week 6



It's all about Him!

BOOK OF THE BIBLE

Transformational Bible Study Method

STEP 1—INTENT

What did the author intend for the original audience to know?

Look at the full context and avoid imposing a 21st-century worldview or assumptions into the ancient text.

TITLE/MEANING:

AUTHOR:

DATE/PERIOD OF HISTORY:

AUDIENCE:

BIBLICAL LITERARY GENRES: The author may use different types within the same book.
Circle the genre(s) used:

Historical/Narrative – Law – Poetry – Wisdom – Letters/Epistles – Prophecy – Apocalyptic – Gospels

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE/CONTEXT:

CHRIST CONNECTION: It's all about Him!



It's all about Him!

BOOK OF THE BIBLE/CHAPTER

Transformational Bible Study Method

STEP 1—INTENT

What did the author intend for the original audience to know?

Look at the full context and avoid imposing a 21st-century worldview or assumptions into the ancient text.

STEP 2—TRUTH

What truths does the passage reveal about the character, nature, and ways of God? What truths does it reveal about the character, nature, and ways of God's people? The world? Sin? Satan? Others in the passage?

GOD THE FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT

OTHER MAIN CHARACTERS



STEP 3—TRANSFORMATION

If I BELIEVE and ACT on what God has revealed, how will my heart be changed and my life be different tomorrow?

If I BELIEVE and ACT on what God has revealed, I WILL . . .