

BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

Some years ago my husband and I lived on the South River in Maryland. One of the fun things of living on the water is that you get to have all kinds of water toys like hobie cats and crab pots and yes, fishing poles. I can remember one day our son went off exploring around the cove and came back dragging a john boat. To any of you who do not know what that is--let me explain. It is a flat bottomed boat great for going in and out of shallow waters and finding those crabs that like to hide in the grasses as well as the other critters that like to join them. One problem was that the john boat had a leak, not just a leak, but it was more like a sieve! So after attempting to resolve the matter with screws and patches we just had to decide that a leak was a leak and we had to fashion a system to bail out the water. But our son enjoyed that boat more than any other because he could get his fishing gear and his crabbing gear and go where a lot of other boats could not. Bible Study is much like that story. We set off exploring, find a john boat tucked in some reeds some place along the shore line which will serve us in our search for the truth. Sometimes our john boat leaks and we have to shore the leaks up, sometimes we just are able to gather all of our gear and be off for the day. In this section we want to take our john boat and discover two very different kinds of Bible Studies from which we can choose.

Move to slide 4. Copy the Prezi online link to see the story of the three penguins Pearly, Peter and Patsy. What do you think these three penguins were learning?

Move to slide 5.

Our three penguins had an interesting discussion on the two types of studies. As they were discussing I could not help but think of how people read a mystery novel. One person/reader takes time to read it from beginning to end gathering all of the details along the way. The other opens the book and moves to the last chapter because they want to know the solution to the mystery. There is a big difference between the two. Which kind of reader are you?

Look at the chart on page 2 of chapter 2. Note the marked differences between an Inductive Bible Study and a Deductive Bible Study. Using our analogy of the mystery novel reader, the person who follows the Inductive study is more like the person who reads the mystery novel from the beginning to the end to gather all of the clues. On the opposite of the chart is the Deductive Study Method. This kind is the "let's find the solution" now. What other differences do you note? Did you notice that one is self guided whereas the other is guided by an outside informational person? Did you also note that one has participation and the other has little or no participation? One thus takes in information and the other is giving out information. Which one do you think would be more beneficial as far as memory retention? We know just from childhood on that when we are actively engaged in learning we retain information. When we are just absorbing information we are often prone to "mind wandering." And yet we must ask: Are both worthwhile? Yes they are and for differing reasons. We must remember that each has its merits and each is useful for its own time and purpose. Some people are not capable of studying deeply, which is a requirement of the Inductive Method. It could be due to many reasons, one of which is they do not live in a literate society. Or it could be that they are immature spiritually/physically. There may be many reasons why this method is

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not preferable. We provide the tools but the Holy Spirit is the real teacher and thus we must NOT judge. If you are one who is desiring of the skills necessary, this course will be beneficial to you. . Others are incapable because they do not have the resources nor know how to gain them. This course will help to fill that bill as well. Some are active learners while others are passive learners and learn best from what others have gleaned. And then there are those who just do not, for whatever reason, have a desire or a hunger to study and dig out the nuggets found. For any of those reasons and others the deductive method is probably the best alternative. God has graciously given us teachers who do have the skills, who do have the resources, and do enjoy “digging’ for the nuggets.

On slide 5 a question is asked. Which method do you prefer? Which one do you think would be most advantageous for you? Consider those questions and write out your thoughts in your journal.

Slide 6 & 7

On these two slides there are several questions. You are to choose three and write out the question and an answer. Email the responses to SonShine.