

Christianity 101

Lesson 10: Bible Study How To's

A Bible Study of The Mount Zion Church

Written by

Pastor Ken Patterson



Introduction: As we complete the current study, it must be understood that our growth or failure to grow as Christians relates to our commitment to Biblical discipleship. In previous lessons, we determined that discipleship requires one to follow and just as important, requires one to learn. During this series, you have learned the basics on topics such as sin, salvation, prayer, handling Satan, dealing with troubles, etc. Each lesson was a beginning, a first step if you will, into topics that lead to deeper study. In short, you and I have only just begun.

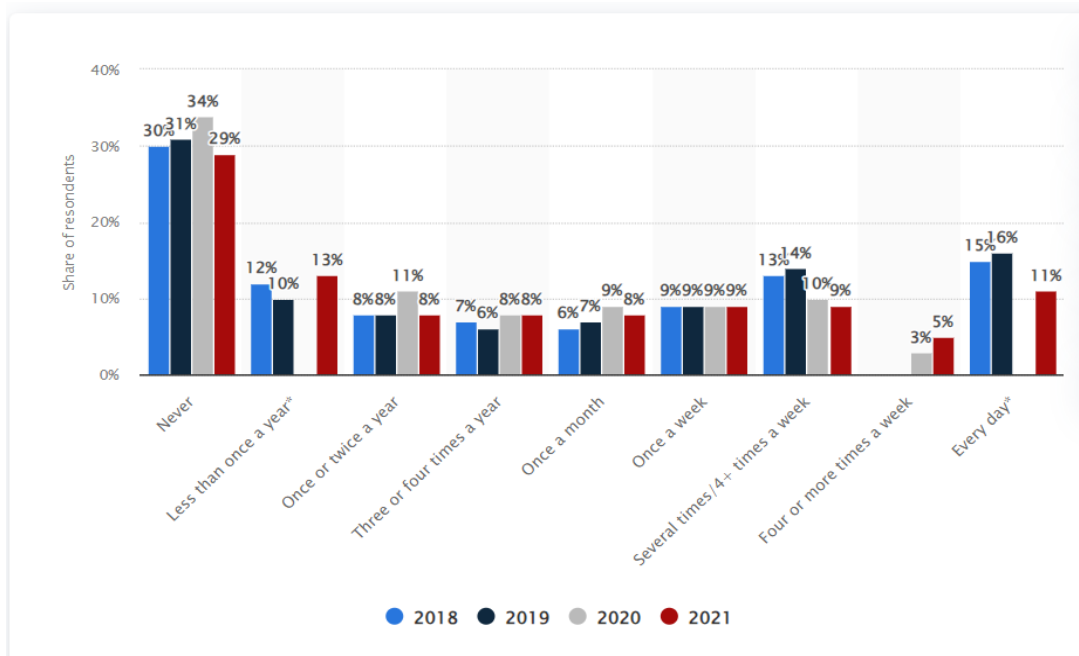
The following lesson is a reminder of the importance of study and includes a few “How To” tips for you to utilize when you are studying on your own. Remember the goal of discipleship is for you and me to become capable enough to lead and disciple others. This means that you as the student become a teacher as well. Thanks for engaging in this study and be blessed as you continue to grow in Christ!

Dr. Ken Patterson

I. Why Should You and I Study God’s Word?

The beginning of our work as disciples, centers on the simple concept that we must be students. However, few classes are ever held on how to be a student. How does one move from unlearned to learned if they are not instructed in how to study?

Consider the following data from a 2021 study by Amy Watson on Bible reading (not study).



Since the trend of reading is declining, one may assume that the trend in study is also declining. We learned in the prior lesson that a lack of study creates a lack of awareness of God and of His requirements for us. If we are not reading the Bible or do not know how to study the Bible, we are at a disadvantage when it comes to the following:



- A. Combating ideologies that are ungodly
- B. Getting the mind of Christ and growing in the knowledge of Christ
- C. Properly arming ourselves against the attack of Satan
- D. Having clarity around the issues that our world faces
- E. Properly preparing for our eternal future (storing up treasures in Heaven)
- F. Effectively managing the resources God has given us
- G. Clearly hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis

We must clearly understand that our intent behind study is more than simply reading the Bible. When we study, we are equipping ourselves as followers of God. Consider the following passage of scripture from 2 Timothy 2: 15:

15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Quick Activity: Read 2 Timothy 2: 15 and answer the following questions.

For whom are you studying? _____

What are the 2 benefits? 1. _____ 2. _____

HMMMMMM! Have you ever studied with these ideas in mind? Along with other reasons for studying, we also study to make God proud of our progress and He approves our progress. To be approved is to have one's demonstration of ability



considered satisfactory. It is to have God see our work and determine that we are qualified for what we are doing. This means that we study to utilize the tool of the word correctly. 2 Timothy 2: 16-19 are rarely read/ studied but set the context of why Paul wrote verse 15 to Timothy. There were people who were incorrectly utilizing the word which Paul

described as profane and idle babblings. The result was that people were being pulled away from the faith.

How do we endanger people's faith when we do not study????!!!!

II. How Should I Study

How to study could be a volume of books as there are degrees people attain on studying the Bible. As average, ordinary, busy Christians, we need simple steps for study. A disclaimer at this point is necessary. The following suggestions are simply options for study. They are not the end all of how to study. What I have found is that we all need an entry point for study. What follows are a few doorways to study which will get us started in the consistency of study. Over time, you will find what works best for you. The key is that you must be consistent and in the words of a well-known tennis shoe company, just do it.

Time Commitment: A great starting point is 15 minutes a day, 7 days a week. This creates a habit, gives us enough time in the word to read and think about what we have read, and gives enough time to jot a few notes down about what was read.

Tools necessary: A Bible, a notebook, 15 minutes of silence, a set time daily.

I suggest that every person begins their day with 15 minutes of study. This is the time you and I can control the most. If you get up daily at 7 AM, getting up at 6:45 AM is basically the same thing. Sacrificing 15 minutes at the beginning of the day before you start the business of your day gives you and God time to communicate through His word.

Study Structure:

- Read: 3-5 minutes
- Jot notes about what you read: 3-5
 - What is God saying to you?
 - What questions do you have for future study?
 - What does the scripture mean?
- Pray: 3-5 minutes
 - Talk to God and Listen for God's voice
 - Close out with thanks for what you have learned that day
- At the end of the day, thank God for your day 2-3 minutes.



III. What Should I Study?

The focus of your study can be as varied as the number of grains of sand on a beach 😊 ! However, the goal is to be systematic in our study. Perhaps your church has a theme for the year or is engaged in a particular study. Follow along with that study and the scriptures that are being used during that time.

Technology has afforded us great opportunities to study simply. Numerous apps are available to help keep us on track in our daily study. Many people utilize the different Bible apps which have a growing bank of studies one can do on particular topics, scriptures, themes, and even whole books of the Bible. The one I use is You Version's Bible app. (I am in no way affiliated with them and receive nothing from them for this suggestion). I find it easy to use and I like easy when it comes to my Bible study. Plus, it is 100% free to use. I like the simplicity of You Version, As with all things, I have found that some of the writers are better than others, but I enjoy utilizing the daily readings found here.

When I am studying and I want to learn something new, I find the topic and the scriptures associated with the topic most often by doing a Google search for scriptures. I also have a number of books that I use that have scriptures organized by topic. You, however, do not need tons of books because you and I have access to

information on our phones. For example, if I want scriptures on love, I can do a simple search and the top four responses that come up give me over 150 verses with the term love in them. I could then study each one using the process described above.

The goal is to ensure that you and I are in study so that we can consistently grow. The Word of God is one of the rich sources of Christian “nutrition.” Along with worship, prayer, fellowship with other believers, and meditation, study affords us an amazing opportunity to connect with The Lord.

As you grow, your ability to serve in ministry increases. As you learn more you gain a greater understanding of God’s purpose for you. As you delve into His word, you will come to know God’s love for you even more and be able to share that with others! This is what Jesus meant as He described those who hunger for the Word in

John 6:35:

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

Conclusion: God has an amazing future in store for us as we build our lives for Him. Keep studying, serving, and worshipping Jesus, and watch what he does for you and through you!

I am excited that you decided to study with us at The Mount Zion Church! We are Seeking the Face of God! To do that, we study God’s word, pray, and worship. We believe that Jesus is the one and only answer for our salvation and invite you to join us as we grow! Please share this lesson with everyone! Check us out at mtzionchurcstl.org