

Explanation | An 8-Session Discipleship Pathway

Handling the Word

How to Study the Bible Faithfully

Key Text: 2 Timothy 2:15

Supporting Text: Psalm 1:1-3

I want to offer you an **8-session discipleship pathway** to help you become more confident in opening the Bible, reading it carefully, understanding what it says, and responding to God faithfully.

This is not about becoming a scholar, winning arguments, or knowing every answer. It is about learning how to draw near to God through His Word.

The Bible is not merely a book of religious information. It is the living Word of God. **Hebrews 4:12** says, “*For the word of God is living and powerful...*” Scripture reveals who God is, who we are, what sin has done, and how God has acted to redeem us through Jesus Christ.

At the centre of Scripture is God’s redemptive plan through Christ. **The Bible reveals Christ:** His person, His work, His kingdom, His sacrifice, His resurrection, and His promised return. Jesus Himself said that the Scriptures testify of Him. So when we study the Bible, we are not merely collecting facts. We are starting to see God’s purposes and hear His voice through His written Word, to then respond in faith.

I call it a “pathway” just because it’s walked one step at a time, built on a simple conviction: you *can learn* to study the Bible. You’re not going to understand everything at once, and you’re not expected to. Remember, God does not reproach those who ask Him for wisdom. **James 1:5** says that if anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask God, “*who gives to all liberally and without reproach.*” **James 4:8** also says, “*Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.*”

The goal is not perfection. The goal is growth. One step at a time.

The 8 Sessions

Session 1 - Why Study the Bible?

We'll begin by looking at what the Bible says about itself. Why has God given us Scripture? What is it for? How does it reveal God's truth and His redemptive plan through Christ?

Session 2 - The Right Heart: Prayer, Humility, and Obedience

Before we learn methods, we consider the heart. We come to Scripture humbly, prayerfully, and with a willingness to obey what God shows us.

Session 3 - Observation: What Does the Text Say?

We learn to slow down and notice what is actually written. Who is speaking? What is happening? What words are repeated? What commands, promises, warnings, or truths are present?

Session 4 - Context: Never Read a Verse Alone

We learn why context matters. Every verse belongs in a sentence, a paragraph, a chapter, a book, and the larger story of Scripture.

Session 5 - Interpretation: What Does It Mean?

We learn to ask what the passage meant when God first gave it. We learn to avoid imposing our own ideas and culture on the text.

Session 6 - Genre: Reading Each Part of the Bible Properly

We learn that Scripture contains different kinds of writing: history, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, Gospel, letters, and more. Each needs to be read carefully and appropriately.

Session 7 - Application: What Must I Do With This?

Bible study is incomplete until we respond. We'll learn to ask: Is there something to believe, obey, confess, trust, pray, or give thanks for?

Session 8 - Putting It All Together

We bring everything together into a simple, repeatable method: pray, read, observe, interpret, connect, apply, and pray again.

The Hope

By the end of these eight sessions, the aim is that you will be more comfortable opening the Bible for yourself, asking good questions, understanding the passage in context, and responding to God with faith and obedience.

I'm going to try to write this so that, in the future, I can also give it to others, regardless of education, and I'll also be asking for feedback.

We don't need to know all the answers. We simply need a teachable heart, a willingness to seek God, and the confidence that God gives wisdom to those who ask.