

TEN QUESTIONS

To Ask of Every Chapter of Scripture

1. **What does this chapter teach me about God?**

Note: Look for teaching about His attributes, attitudes, and actions.

2. **Specifically, what does this chapter reveal about Christ?**

Note: Look for Christ in all the Scriptures, including the Old Testament. He is the key to, and message of, the entire Bible: Acts 10:43.

3. **What are the doctrines taught in this chapter?**

Make a list of them with relevant quotations from the chapter and any cross references I may know.

4. **Who are the leading characters?**

5. **What are the leading events?**

6. **What sins and follies are stated or implied?**

Examine my own heart in the light of this list. Which things in the list, or suggested by it, do I need to confess and forsake?

7. **What are the virtues evidenced in this chapter that I should seek after and cultivate?**

8. **What new thing have I seen and what old truth has the Lord brought with fresh blessing to my heart?**

9. **What are the key words and phrases that call for further study?** (See the word study guide on the inside leaf.)

10. **Which one thing may I remember this chapter by?**

All Bible study should be approached with the prayer that the Lord will give light and leading: PSALM 119:18. Used in this way the following rules of study will produce real results in a detailed chapter by chapter study of the Word of God.

The method suggested here is designed to help students achieve a comprehensive knowledge of the chapter contents of the Scriptures and to enable them to use that knowledge to guide and quicken them in the place of personal prayer. Obviously there are other methods of Bible study—book analysis, subject studies, etc. But studying the Bible book chapter by chapter is fundamental to all the rest. Nothing can take the place of a good working knowledge of the contents of the Bible.

This study method is not intended to replace all other Bible reading. It is a good thing for Christians to read widely in the Word of God. A constant reading of the Old and New Testaments will be a source of rich spiritual growth. Additionally, however, every Christian should seek to carry on some real study of the Scriptures, book by book, and this is where the following rules will help.

The easiest way to use this study guide is to take a notebook and copy the Ten Commandments of Bible Study into it. Then read a chapter from start to finish. Identify the chapter at the top of your notebook page and prepare to answer the ten questions. Examine the chapter carefully and note in your book the answers it provides, remembering that the amount of information under each question will vary from chapter to chapter.

When you have done this, review your work and meditate on what you have found. You will then be in a position to use your written answers as the basis for your personal prayer and worship, approaching God as He is revealed in the Scripture before you, confessing sin and making requests as the portion suggests. There is no better way to keep your prayer life fresh and Scriptural. May you find it so in your experience. ■

Word Study Instructions

Procedure for Study

1. **Look up the selected word in the concordance.**

You may use either a *Young's Analytical Concordance* or a *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. Young lists the English words in sections according to the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word it translates. Strong lists all the references of the English word under a single heading but uses a numbering system to identify the different words in the original.

2. **Use the classification scheme of your concordance to isolate the word you wish to study.** Remember that the same English word may be used to translate several words in the original languages. In a word study you must be careful to use only the original word you have selected to study.

3. **Make a list of the word in its contexts.**

4. **Study the contexts for clues to its meaning.**

a. Look for definitions or explanations of the word in the passages in which it occurs.

b. Look for other words, either synonyms or antonyms, that occur frequently with your chosen word.

c. If the chosen word is a verb, look for what kind of subjects and objects it takes.

5. **Regroup or organize the list of references according to your observations.**

6. **Find clear passages to illustrate the senses you have seen in the word.**

7. **Check your findings with a good lexicon.**