

Chapter Studies

This provides a beginning understanding to a single chapter of the Bible. Useful for introductory or overview lessons.

Preparation:

- Read your chosen chapter or passage at least five times.
 - Read it in a Bible without previous notes. Let it be fresh.
 - Read it aloud without stopping (at least the first few times).
 - Read it in several different contemporary, reliable translations. Biblegateway.com can be used for other translations.
- **Caption:** Give the chapter a short, descriptive, *memorable* title to help you remember it.
 - Ex. 1 Corinthians 13— “Love” Hebrews 11— “Heroes of the Faith”
- **Contents:** Describe, summarize, paraphrase, outline, or make a list of the major points in a chapter. Don’t try to interpret it, just make observations of its contents.
- **Chief People:** List the most important people in the chapter.
 - Who are the main people in this chapter?
 - Why are they included?
 - What is significant about them?
 - Write down your reasons for choosing certain people as the chief ones of this chapter.
- **Choice Verse:** Choose a verse that summarizes the whole chapter or one that applies to the people in your small group.
 - There may not always be a key verse.
 - On occasion you may want to pick a verse from which you will be writing your application, a verse that you believe God wants to apply to our lives.
- **Challenges:** List any difficulties you may have with the passage.
 - Are there any statements or ideas you do not understand?
 - Are there any statements or ideas that the people in your small group may struggle with?
- **Cross-References:** Using cross-references in your resources, look up other verses that help clarify what the chapter is talking about. Study Bibles or blueletterbible.org
- **Christ Seen:** Be alert for statements that tell you something about Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, or God the Father.
 - What can I learn about the nature of Jesus from this chapter?
 - What attributes of God in Christ are illustrated here?
- **Central Lessons:** Write down the major principles, insights, and lessons you learn from this chapter.
 - Why does God want this passage in the Bible?
 - What does he want to teach me from this chapter?
 - What is the central thought the writer is trying to develop?
- **Conclusion:** Apply this!
 - How do these truths apply to me personally?
 - What specifically am I going to do about them?

All methods and ideas are taken from Rick Warren’s *Bible Study Methods*.
Warren, Rick. *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word*. Zondervan, 2006.

Lesson Format:

Title: The passage you are studying—the **caption**.

Introduction: Provide a short activity, ice breaker, or thought provoking question to focus the group's thoughts on the topic for the day.

Lesson Body:

- Read the chapter or passage in the group.
 - You can split it among different people if it's a longer section.
- After they have read it for themselves. Explain your studies to ensure that they understood.
 - Point out the **content** of the chapter.
 - Introduce them to the **chief people** and explain why they are important.
- Ask for their thoughts on the passage. This is also a great time to ask a question about the passage that either spurs discussion or guides them to the main ideas. This is where you can address their **challenges**. (If it is beneficial to discussion, you may present your own challenges as a way to encourage them to think more deeply about the passage.)
- After you or the discussion has brought up the **Christ seen** and/or the **central lesson**, guide them to other meaningful **cross-references** to support their understanding.

Conclusion: Discuss how this chapter can apply to our lives. As much as you can, make the application personal, practical, possible, and provable (see "Basic Principles for Bible Study").

-Make sure you can give examples of how this passage applies to your life before you ask others.

-Suggestion: A great take-away for this lesson would be to encourage them to memorize the **choice verse**.

-How will they remember this throughout the week?

-How will they understand the importance of this?

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