

Study on One Book of the Bible

This study will prepare you to create a unit (one cohesive study spanning multiple weeks) on one book of the Bible. Most books will be too extensive to cover with just one small group lesson.

After creating the unit on your chosen book, you will need to create individual lessons for each week.

This allows you to study a book of the Bible without just going chapter by chapter, but idea by idea.

(3 John, Philemon, or Jude for example can be covered in one week or multiple weeks. If you choose to do a shorter book in just one week, you can consult the Chapter Summary Lesson Plan Format.)

Preparation:

Whatever you think you know about the book you're about to study, let yourself forget it. Let God reveal Himself to you in this book, not just reaffirm who you think He is. Try to read it as if you had never read it before!

- Read your chosen book through multiple times.
 - You will need to start studying the book multiple weeks before you teach on it.
 - Read it in different translations (biblegateway.com). ESV, NLT, and NKJV are reliable translations. They are not the only reliable translations.
 - Do not refer to commentaries or notes in your study Bible yet. This is just to immerse yourself in the book, so try to read it through in one sitting.
- **Outline** the book.
 - As you read through the book for the second or third time, begin taking notes on the sequence of events, observe interactions among the people mentioned, etc.*
 - Once you understand the main ideas and purpose of the book, organize your notes into an outline with main points and subpoints.
 - Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what He wants to reveal specifically to you. Don't rely solely on commentaries, study Bibles, and/or blueletterbible.org, but you are encouraged to use those resources for accountability purposes.
 - You don't have to go chapter by chapter.
- Create a **summary** of your insights.
 - In one or two sentences, what is the book about?
- **Application**
 - Looking at the book as a whole, how does the main idea apply to our lives?
 - What would we be convicted of or desire to change after reading this book?

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.

Unit Format

You won't need to read through the whole book. Pick key verses and passages that exemplify the main topics of each week.

Week 1: Introduce the Unit

- Share the **summary** of the book with your group so that they know the reason you chose to study the book.
- Present a brief **outline** of the book so everyone knows what to expect as the weeks go on.
 - *Each of the main points in your outline will be a topic for one week.* The first main point will guide the lesson for this week.

Week 2—: Go Topic by Topic

- Each week should follow this flow:
 - General: The **summary** of the book and how it leads to the specific topic.
 - Specific: The main point from the **outline** will guide the lesson for this week.
 - Specific: Focus on the application that is specific to this particular lesson.
 - General: Mention the **application** that we work on from the book as a whole.

Final Week: Main Point of the Book

- This week will be a whole lesson on the **summary** of the book.
- Focus on the **application** of the whole books.

*Things to consider as you study a book of the Bible.

1. Category: Is the book history? Poetry? Prophecy? Law? A biography? A letter?
2. First Impressions: What is the first impression you get from the book? What do you think is the purpose of the writer? What “feel” do you get from reading it?
3. Key Words: What are some of the significant words the writer uses? What words are repeated the most? What word or words is he emphasizing?
4. Key Verse: What seems to be the key verse (if any)? What ideas or phrases are repeated that may show his main thought? What is the writer’s key statement?
5. Literary Style: Is the book a narrative? A drama? A personal letter? A discourse? Poetry? A combination of narration and poetry? Does the writer use figurative speech? Is he using a logical argument?
6. Emotional Tone: Is the writer angry? Sad? Happy? Worried? Excited? Depressed? Calm? How do you think his hearers must have felt when they received this writing? How does it make you feel?
7. Main Theme(s): What is the main theme? Is there more than one? What is the writer saying? What is his major emphasis?
8. Structure of the Book: Are there obvious divisions of thought in the book? How is the book organized? Around people? Events? Places? Ideas? Time spans?
9. Major People: Who are the principal personalities in the book? Which people are mentioned the most, and what parts do they play in the book?

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