

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

SESSION 12

The study of the Bible is a lifelong process. It takes years to grasp its essential messages. As we grow in our understanding, we realize early truths deepen in their meanings. After years of study, you will feel there is still so much more to know.

As in any study, we need to know how to proceed. This lesson will provide practical and spiritual principles to aid you in your study.

We begin with the:

PRACTICAL

THE CHOICE OF A BIBLE - All Bibles are a translation. The books of the Bible were originally written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. The history of translations is that scrolls were first translated into Latin, the language of Rome. Then, in the Middle Ages came to us in English. For years, the translation was the King James, done in _____.

As the years have passed, we realized that we do not talk as they did on the _____. Words and sentence structure have changed, so new translations began to appear. King James is still widely used, but many have trouble understanding parts of it. So the first decision is what kind of translation to buy.

Various translations of the Bible are available. A background will help guide you in your choice. Some translations are for a specific purpose.

The **GOOD NEWS BIBLE** was produced with simple words for people new to English or limited in vocabulary.

The **LIVING BIBLE** is a freer translation that is more interested in making it readable with the general truth highlighted.

The **INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN STANDARD** are more precise, yet up-to-date with words.

BIBLE COSTS- The cost of a Bible is generally determined by the type of cover used; hard back, paper, or leather. Bibles with indexes and study helps included are usually higher priced. Often, you will see a study Bible which will provide helps in notes and outlines.

OTHER BOOKS - Some basic kinds of books will provide you reference material concerning Biblical information. **HANDBOOKS** give an overview of books, background material, cultures, etc.

A **CONCORDANCE** lists all of the words of the Bible. You may find this helpful when tracing specific themes.

A **BIBLE DICTIONARY** gives definitions of words or background of places and people.

BIBLE ATLAS -A book of various maps that show how the countries have changed.

BIBLE COMMENTARY - Provide interpretation of verses. Commentaries can be purchased in as a “one volume commentary” or many volume set.

BIBLE SOFTWARE - Much of this material is now available for your computer, and can be purchased for less than \$100.