

**“EXPLORING SOLUTIONS
TO BIBLICAL ILLITERACY”**

24TH ANNUAL CME CONVOCATION

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WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

- *To please God
- *To learn how to live and grow as Christians
- *To develop spiritual discernment
- *To be able to answer the questions of others
- *To know God
- *To enjoy and love God
- *To know God's Word
- *To understand the Word
- *To learn direction in life
- *To find comfort and hope
- *To let God expose our innermost thoughts and desires
- *To become pure and holy
- *To obey the Great Commandment

HOW TO BEGIN STUDYING THE BIBLE

- *Plan a study time
- *Pray
- *Read and re-read the Bible
- *Know the author (Know God and know something about who wrote each book of the Bible)
- *Take notes
- *Make the Bible your authority
- *Find a group

ADVANTAGES OF GROUP BIBLE STUDY

- *Learning and gaining insights from other people
- *Creates a synergism (the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts)
- *You encourage others and others encourage you

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

- *Look for God's overall plan
- *Find the background of the books of the Bible
- *Read verses in context
- *Whole message of God's Word
- *Discover the intended meaning
- *Learn the history and geography
- *Figurative language
- *Forms of literature

TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

- *Study Bibles
- *Concordances
- *Bible software
- *Bible dictionaries
- *Bible atlases, maps and timelines

- *Bible commentaries and handbooks
- *Topical Bibles
- *Interlinear Bibles

WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE

- *Small group Bible Studies
- *Bible Study and Sunday School at Church
- *Read Psalms and Proverbs
- *Overview of the Bible (Read the Bible in one year)
- *Listen to learn
- *Discuss the Bible with others

METHODS OF BIBLE TRANSLATION

- *Word-for-word
- *Balance (New International Version; God's Word)
- *Thought-for-thought (Good News; New Century; New Living Translation, Contemporary English Version)
- *Paraphrase (The Message)

WHY DO NEW TRANSLATIONS CONTINUE TO APPEAR?

- *Words change
- *Understanding of ancient languages changes
- *Translators' purposes vary

SOURCES

Knowing the Bible 101: A Guide to God's Word in Plain Language by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz, ISBN 978-0-7369-1261-7

How to Study the Bible for Yourself by Tim LaHaye, ISBN 978-0-7369-1696-7

The Bible at a Glance, Rose Bible Basics Series, ISBN 978-159636-200-0

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know by Timothy Beal, ISBN 978-0-06-171862-5