Name: _____
Date: _____ Junior 1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 12 – Student Handout

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment." (Philippians 1:9)

Objectives

Knowledge of God's Will	Understand the benefits of studying the Bible. Understand the attitude required to study the Bible, as well as the various methods used.
Knowledge of God	God is the way, the truth, and the life.
Good Works	Learn how to study the Bible using the inductive method. Apply and act on God's word in our lives.

A. Studying the Bible

1. ***How to Approach Bible Study:*** Study with prayer and faith; let the word speak to you; read carefully and take notes; and lastly, never alter the word of God.
2. ***How to Benefit from Bible Study***
   a. ***Keep the word:*** Studying the Bible is an act of futility if we do not also strive to keep the word in our hearts (2 Tim 3:14–17).
   b. ***Apply the word:*** The truly faithful act out God's word, as faith without deeds is useless.
   c. ***Spread the word:*** We have been freely blessed with the word, so it is only right that we freely pass it on to others with diligence and courage (Mt 10:8, 27; Tit 1:3).

B. How to Study the Bible: The Inductive Method

1. ***Observation ("What does the passage say?"):*** Discover what the passage is saying by asking questions such as, "What did God say?" and "How did He say it?" These types of questions help you unravel the passage and equip you for a sound interpretation.
2. ***Interpretation ("What does the passage mean?"):*** Do not color the Bible's meaning with your own perceptions. Look at the immediate context by reading the surrounding verses, and at the broader context by reading the surrounding chapters. Most importantly, ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you and show you what God wants to convey.
3. ***Application ("How does the passage apply to me?"):*** Think about what God is teaching you personally. What are His commands? Which of your shortcomings is He pointing out? How is He trying to encourage you? How does the truth revealed here affect my relationship with God and with others? How can I grow in my walk with God?

C. What to Study: Types of Bible Studies

1. Survey of the Old and New Testaments
2. Book Study
3. Chapter Study
4. Passage or Subject Study
5. Character Study
6. Historical Study

Tools for Studying the Bible

Whatever references we choose to use, it is important that we continue to rely on the Holy Spirit. If we rely too much on the interpretations of the world around us, we may fall away from the truth. Use biblical tools with care, and always look first to the Holy Spirit for divine guidance and wisdom.

Life Application and Conclusion

Studying the Bible is necessary for us to better understand God's character and how to please Him. But we cannot rely on our teachers within the church. We must learn how to study the Bible on our own, so that it may transform us from within.

Name: _____
Date: _____

Lesson 12 Homework Assignment

How to Study the Bible

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Philippians 1:9):

_____

_____

_____

1. What is the importance of knowledge and discernment in relation to our love for others?

2. What is the importance of studying the Bible?

3. What does it mean to “let the word speak to you” when studying the Bible?

4. What questions summarize the meaning of each step in the inductive method of Bible study?

5. The “application” step is not simply answering a question. What more should it be?

6. Do you keep God’s word in your heart? How do you plan to improve your knowledge of the Bible?