HOW TO DO A CHAPTER STUDY ~ Let’s Get Started!

To learn more about doing a chapter study and other inductive Bible study skills, we encourage you to keep on hand a copy of *The New How to Study Your Bible*. If you don’t yet have a copy, you can order one by visiting www.precept.org or calling 800-763-8280.

A chapter study helps you to focus in on the details in the chapter to better understand what the author is saying. Each of the skills is used to bring important points to light.

- **Look for the 5 Ws and H**

  Read the text asking the 5 Ws and H—Who, What, When, Where, Why, How. For example, when studying John 1, read the text asking questions like:

  - **Who** is this about?
  - **When**?
  - **Where** was the Word?
  - **Who** was the Word?
  - **What** did the Word do?

  Don’t expect every verse or chapter to answer all the 5 Ws and H about a particular subject or person, but you should read with a questioning mind-set.

*Marking key words and phrases and making lists help you to answer the 5 Ws and H.*

- **Mark key words and phrases**

  **Key words** are repeated words within a text which are vital to its meaning.

  Mark in a distinctive way each key word or phrase in the chapter along with its pronouns and synonyms. Use colors and/or symbols.

  Example: “Word” is a repeated word that is **key** to understanding John 1.

- **Lists**

  The next step is to list what the chapter says about each of the key words. Look at each place you marked a key word and list what the text says.

  A **list** is a compilation of the facts given about a particular word or person. It gives the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, how) about that word or person. Use words from the text.

  A list about the **Word** from John 1 begins this way:

  - was in the beginning, v. 1
  - was with God, v. 1
  - was God, v. 1
  - was in the beginning with God, v. 2
• Mark and evaluate:

Contras**ts**—point out differences. To mark a contrast, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as √.

John 1:17: “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”

“But,” “however,” or “nevertheless” might indicate a contrast.

John 4:2: “...Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were....”

Comparisons—point out similarities. To mark a comparison, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as =.

John 10:9: “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved....”

Sometimes “like” or “as” indicate a comparison.

John 3:14-15: “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”

Terms of Conclusion—show that a conclusion or summary is being made. These help us understand “why.”

Look for the words signifying a conclusion or result such as “therefore,” “for this reason,” and “finally.”

John 12:50: “I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

Expressions of Time—give timing, sequence of events, or progression.

Look for words such as “then,” “after,” “when,” “until,” “the day of....”

John 1:2: “He was **in the beginning** with God.”

• Identify subjects or themes

Identify main subjects, events, or points of a chapter by observing it paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs can be shown with boldface type for the first verse number of a paragraph, by a paragraph symbol, or by an indentation at the beginning of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph, and in the margin list the event, subject, or main point of the paragraph.

John 1:6-8

6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the Light, but **he came** to testify about the Light.