

How to Discover Biblical Principles

The Topical Bible Study Method

Topical Bible studies can help you discover scriptural ideas, then apply them to your life. Below are steps for mastering this approach quickly.

How to do topical Bible studies

1. Choose a topic. It may be one you've previously wanted to research, or it may be a current issue or problem on the job that you would like to see improved, changed or resolved.
2. Select a short Bible passage (five to 10 verses) that best relates to your subject. A concordance or on-line bible search tool can help.
3. List key thoughts. Make a note of the references that generated your thoughts.
4. Define key thoughts.
5. Summarize.
6. Select a key verse. Write out, then memorize, either your favorite verse or the one that best sums up the topic.
7. Make a personal application. Ask:
 - How do these truths apply to me?
 - What is my specific game plan?
 - What kind of checkup will I use to ensure I do what I want to?

Sample topics

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Study verses</u>
Paying debts	Proverbs 3:27-28
Being honest	Proverbs 11:1
Getting counsel	Proverbs 15:22
Committing your work to God	Proverbs 16:3
Saving for the future	Proverbs 21:20
Choosing a good name always	Proverbs 22:1
Seeking excellence	Proverbs 22:29
Being humble	Proverbs 27:2
Realizing rich doesn't mean happy	Ecclesiastes 5:10
Having a quiet spirit	Ecclesiastes 10:4
Avoiding procrastination	Ecclesiastes 11:4
Working with eternity in view	Ecclesiastes 11:8

Sample study Topic: planning

Verses studied
Proverbs 6:6-8

Key thoughts

The ant plans ahead and stores up for the harvest.

Proverbs 15:22

I must seek counsel on my plans if they are to be successful.

Proverbs 16:3

I must commit my plans to God, asking his wisdom and believing that he will give me his thoughts.

Proverbs 21:5

Plans must be followed by diligent application if they are to be profitable.

Proverbs 24:3-4

A business is built on wise planning (an ongoing process). Common sense is valuable.

Summary

Committing my planning to God, asking for his wisdom and seeking counsel will help me be a wise planner. No matter what my plans are, they will be successful only with hard work. Without diligence, good plans will fail.

Key verse
Proverbs 24:3-4

"Any enterprise is built on wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts" (Living Bible).

Application

I will not make hasty plans but will follow this process:

- Ask God for wisdom.
- Commit my plans and thoughts to God.
- Make sure my plans don't violate God's Word.
- Seek wise counsel.
- Apply my plans diligently.