

Studying a Chapter

Oh how we hunger to hear from the Lord! Wouldn't you love for Him to sit down with you, share His heart with you, bring you encouragement, speak His promises to you, challenge you to grow, change you into the image of His Son? Do you realize that as much as you would love to hear from the Lord, He wants to speak to you even more! He longs for you to listen to Him, be taught by Him, to walk in His ways and live as He wills. And He has given us His Word, the Bible, that we can hear Him clearly if we will just take time to listen.

That's the key - taking time to listen. This is where chapter studies come in as a beautiful blessing of Bible study. As you do a chapter study, you will intentionally slow down, focusing in on the details while keeping the big picture in mind, paying attention to what is being said BEFORE you try to determine what is meant. In the process, you will learn to hear His voice, His intended meaning will start to become very clear, and the Spirit will take the words that you are meditating on and apply them to your life, transforming you into the image of Jesus.

Remember, this is a tool, not a taskmaster. Since not every chapter will lend itself to every step, use this guide as it makes sense for the chapter you are studying. The intent is simply to slow down and listen to what the Spirit says.

1. Begin in **prayer**

Ask the Lord to open the eyes of your understanding. (2 Corinthians 2:14, Luke 24:45)

2. **Read** full chapter, beginning to end in one sitting without making any notes.

3. Get in **context**:

- a. **Who** are the main people in this chapter? List important facts about them from the chapter.
- b. **Where** are they? (notice locations, find on map or diagram)
- c. **When** does this take place? (notice time phrases – “before”, “after”, “during”, specific dates, etc.)

4. Find the **flow**

- a. Notice **sequence terms** (before, after, then, etc) and **terms of conclusion** (however, therefore, etc.) and see how they connect ideas.
- b. Determine **main events** and **paragraph or segment themes** and record them in the margins

5. Discover the **message**

- a. Highlight **key words/ concepts** and list what you learn (word for word from the text)
- b. Find **comparisons/ contrasts**
- c. Make note of **cause/ effect**

6. Summarize your **discoveries**

- a. What is/are the **primary point(s)** of this chapter?
- b. How does this chapter **fit** into the message of the book as a whole?

7. **Memorize** key verses

Choose 1-2 verses that summarize the key concept of the chapter and memorize them