

# BIBLE STUDY METHODS

## The Verse-by-Verse Analysis Method<sup>1</sup>

A simple, practical way to study Scripture in depth.

The verse-by-verse Bible study involves examining a passage of Scripture in detail by asking questions, finding cross references, and paraphrasing each verse. You then record a personal application for each verse you study.

### The Steps

Using the verse-by-verse analysis chart, follow the five simple procedures for each verse that you study.

Verse	Paraphrase	Question & Answers	Cross References	Insights	Personal Applications
1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope.	Paul, one sent forth as Christ's representative, by the commandment of God, the One who saves us, and Christ Jesus our hope.	Q. What does the word apostle mean?  A. The Greek word Apostolos comes from the verb apostello, "send forth"  O. Why is God the Father, rather than Christ, called Savior?	Apostle: 2 Cor 1:1  God my Savior: Lk 1:47 Titus 1:3  Christ our hope: Col 1:27	1. The name Paul comes from the Latin name Paulus, which means "little." 2. The name Timothy means "he who honors God." 3. Paul did not need to tell Timothy that he was an apostle, so perhaps this letter was intended to be read by others as well.	I must begin to see myself in the role of Christ's ambassador who has been authorized and sent out with a divine message. The authority of my witness will only be as effective as my awareness of my mission.

**Step One: Write a personal paraphrase.** Write out the verse in your own words. Do not use one of the modern paraphrases except to get the idea of how to do it. Stay true to the verse you are paraphrasing, and try to condense rather than expand it.

**Step Two: List some questions, answers, and observations.** List any questions you have on the verse or on words, phrases, persons, topics, or doctrines in that verse. Write down any answers you are able to find (in other Bibles, reference books, etc.). Also record any observations you have on that verse. Make these as follows: Q = Question, A = Answer, O = Observations.

**Step Three: Find one or more cross-references for each verse.** Identify the word or phrase you in each verse that you are cross-referencing. Use a concordance if you do not have a cross-referenced Bible.

**Step Four: Record any insights you get from each verse.** Having thought through the words, phrases, and concepts in the verse, record any insights that you get from it. These could be further observations, words and names that you have looked up and defined, or any other thought that comes to you. Let your imagination go and be as creative as you can.

<sup>1</sup> Slightly modified. The Verse-by-Verse Analysis Method by Rick Warren. Discipleship Journal, Issue 90, 1995.

**Step Five: Write down a brief personal application.** Because of the number of verses you will be studying, you will not be able to design an application project for each verse. Instead, just try to record some devotional thoughts that come to you from each verse. Later you can pick one of the thoughts and plan to work on it. Or, if a particular verse seems to meet an immediate need, go ahead and write out an application that is possible, practical, personal, and measurable.

**Filling Out the Form**

Draw six columns on a sheet of paper. Label them: Verses, Personal Paraphrase, Questions and Answers, Cross References, Insights and Personal Application. When you have picked the number of verses you will study, write each one in a separate space in column 1, using your favorite translation of the Bible. Stick with the same translation throughout your study. Next, fill in the rest of the columns as described in the five steps. Refer to the sample for an idea on how to do it.

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