

## Bible Study for February 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Now that you've surveyed an entire book of the Bible, you're ready to look at it in more detail, close-up! Here's some ideas on how to continue:

1. *Remember to Pray.* Without the help of the Holy Spirit you cannot benefit from your study of the Bible. Therefore, start by asking his help and continue with an attitude of prayer.
2. *Keep the Context in Mind.* Context is very important to interpreting the Bible. The word context means "what which goes with the text." Context is the words, phrases, or sentences surrounding a particular word, phrase or sentence.
3. *Does the Text Answer Any of the 5 W's and an H.* Just as you asked these questions when reading the entire book, continue to ask these questions of the specific text within the book which you are studying.
4. *Look for and Mark Key Words and Phrases.* A key word or phrase is one which the author uses repeatedly or in a significant way. You can mark your words with different color pencils, highlighters or pens. You can also use different symbols to help you recognize words. Read chapter several times looking for a different key word or phrase each time. Always mark references to God the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.
5. *List What You Learned About Each Word.* On separate sheets of paper, place a different key word or phrase at the top of each page. Then ask the 5 W's and an H question about each key word or phrase and allow these answers to form your list.
6. *Look for Contrasts, Comparisons, Terms of Conclusion, and Expressions of Time.*
  - A **contrast** is many times indicated by the word "but," "however," or "nevertheless."
  - A **comparison** uses the words "like and "as" and may signal an illustration.
  - An **expression of time** answers the question, When? You might draw a picture of a clock in the margin to indicate a time reference.
  - **Terms of conclusion and result** are very important since they often provide a summary of what has been stated. Be on the watch for words such as "therefore," "for," "so that," and "for this reason."
7. *Relate Paragraph Themes to Chapter Themes and Chapter Themes to Book Themes.* One way to do this is to write at the top of a sheet of paper what you believe the theme of the entire book is (based on your previous study). Then underneath list the theme for each chapter and under each chapter the theme for each paragraph.

**If you haven't already, dig into a book of the Bible this week and begin studying!**

**Weekly Bible studies meet each Tuesday (except following a holiday) and Thursday in Capitol Annex Room 436 from 11:30 am till noon. Same study both days to allow flexibility for committee schedules.**