

HOW TO DO A TOPICAL STUDY

The Topical Bible Study Method

PURPOSE

A topical study is a study of what God's Word has to say regarding a specific topic. The advantage of a topical study is that it gives you the total picture of what the Word of God has to say on a particular subject.

PROCEDURE – 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.

I. Look up **every** relative passage on the subject you are studying

- A. Use concordance, topical Bible, chain reference system in your Bible
- B. Remember to look up related words. For example, if you are studying prayer, then also look up intercession, supplication, and petition.
- C. Look for major topical passage and where it is first mentioned in the Bible.

II. As you read each passage, put down key verses on your notes with the truths you have gleaned from them.

- A. Study each passage thoroughly
- B. Check context
- C. Determine main truths taught in this passage
- D. Record observations, new insights
- E. List key thoughts. Make a note of the references that generated your thoughts.
- F. Define key terms.
- G. Summarize.
- H. Select a key verse. Write out, then memorize, either your favorite verse or the one that best sums up the topic.

III. Organize material into an outline

Example: Spiritual Gifts

- I. Definition
- II. Purpose
- III. List of Spiritual Gifts and Their Definitions
- IV. How to Discern Your Gift

IV. Application – Make a personal application. Ask:

- A. How do these truths apply to me?
- B. What is my specific game plan?
- C. What kind of checkup will I use to ensure I do what I want to?