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# NOTES ON LESSON 5: I CAN HAVE A GREAT BIBLE STUDY

(Also see “I Can Have a Great Bible Study” and “Answer Guide for Teachers”)

This final lesson in the series for new and growing Christians encourages commitment to Bible study by pointing out some of the benefits received by those who study God’s Word. Necessary actions and attitudes are discussed, along with some suggested rules for Bible study. As in previous lessons, you should avoid doing most of the talking and instead help the student to discover, explain, and apply.

## Opening Questions

**1 Peter 1:3** through **Acts 20:32**. This lesson begins with an opportunity for each new Christian to reaffirm that he has been born again. It is important for new believers to vocalize their faith in Jesus and their confidence in their obedience to the gospel. First Peter 2:2 encourages new Christians to grow. Growth requires commitment.

Those who have received Jesus need to become established in the faith (Colossians 2:6, 7). Only through the Word of God can Christians be built up and given an inheritance (Acts 20:32).

## Issue #1: Benefits of Bible Study

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17** through **Psalms 119:24**. This series of Scriptures teaches that the Word of God is profitable and can help new Christians become spiritually adequate (approved). The precious Word of God, treasured in the heart, keeps us pure and helps us in the battle against sin. Fruitful Bible study is accompanied by prayer for open eyes. Devoted study of God’s Word brings wisdom, trust in the Lord, and strength for overcoming the devil. In this world of darkness, the Word—the Bible—is a light and a lamp to us.

## Issue #2: Actions Needed For Effective Bible Study

**Romans 10:17** through **Matthew 4:4**; **2 Timothy 3:16, 17**. Christians should take advantage of every opportunity to study the Word of God, both privately and publicly. Hearing the Word of God is essential, yet Jesus said in Luke 11 that those who *hear and obey* the Word of God are blessed. When Jesus was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:4), He quoted from the Scriptures. This implies that intimacy with the Bible will result in Christian growth.

## Issue #3: Attitudes Needed For Effective Bible Study

**2 Timothy 2:15** through **James 1:23–25** (chart). Effective students of the Bible are characterized by diligence in their efforts to grow and handle the Word of God accurately. They are known for searching the Scriptures daily and receiving the Word with great eagerness. Growing Christians hunger for the Word of God as babies hunger for milk. Having no appetite for an extended period of time usually means that an infant is sick. The same is true in the Christian life. Healthy, growing Christians long to look into the Word of God, as into a mirror, so that they can learn and take action.

## Issue #4: Suggested Rules For Bible Study

This final section gives five suggestions to help the new Christian rightly divide the Bible:

**1. Know who was speaking.** For example, in Matthew 9:3 Jesus was accused of being a blasphemer. This charge must be considered in the context of who was speaking—faithless scribes.

**2. Know to whom the statement was being made.** In Genesis 6 God gave the command to build an ark, but He was talking only to Noah. Determining the original audience is an important part of understanding context.

**3. Determine when it was spoken.** Luke 23:39–43 describes the salvation of one of the two criminals crucified with Jesus. We cannot be saved today in the same way the thief was; he lived and died under the old law, not the New Testament.

**4. Consider the immediate context.** One man was heard to say, “It is a sin to work at night,” based on John 9:4. In this context, Jesus was talking about death, not about physical labor.

**5. Look for personal application.** Ask questions such as “Are there any sins to forsake, promises to claim, or commands to obey in this passage?” In each Scripture, help students look for good examples to follow or bad examples to avoid.

## Summary & Application

Review what has been learned in these lessons. Encourage students to set specific goals, and emphasize the need to study the Bible every day. ❖