

Message Series: FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (11-27-16)

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

THE "SWORD" BIBLE STUDY METHOD

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

This picture of a sword helps us to teach any passage of the Bible. When we think of a sword we think of four parts of the sword and six questions we need to ask.

The tip points up to the heavens:

What do we learn about God? Jesus? Holy Spirit?

The handle is held by people:

What do we learn about people?

Use the acronym "SPEC" to help remember 4 questions on the blades:

Left Blade:

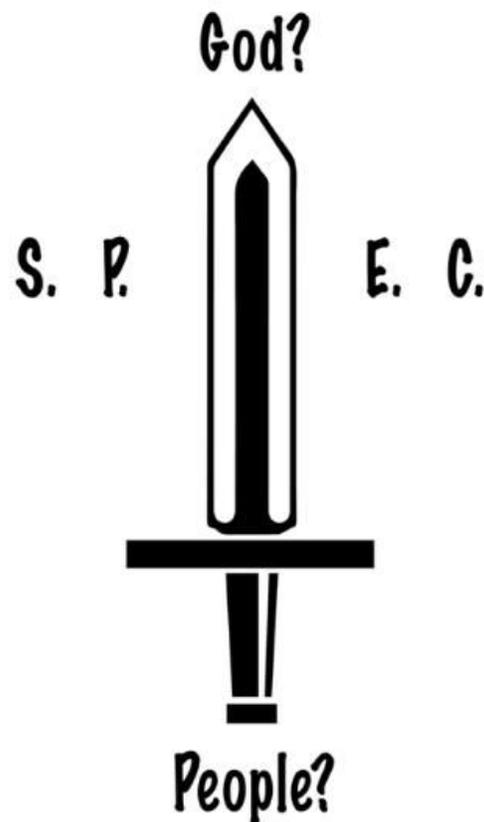
Is there a sin to avoid? (S)

Is there a promise to believe? (P)

Right Blade:

Is there an example to follow? (E)

Is there a command to obey? (C)



To use the Sword Method in a Group:

- 1) Tell the Bible story
- 2) Read the story from the Bible
- 3) Ask Holy Spirit to teach everyone how to understand and obey this passage
- 4) Ask the questions using the "Sword Method."

Living in the power of a vital life-giving habit of daily spending time in the Bible – being in dialogue with the Holy Spirit: “Teach me.”

I. THE WORD OF GOD

- A. The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written by around 40 authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit over a period of 1500 years, in 3 languages and various literary genres.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

- B. We're grow spiritually through a daily communing with God through the Scriptures. To abide in God's Word is to be Jesus' disciple.

Heb 5:13-14 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (c.f. 1 Pet. 2:2)

John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

II. DOUBLE EDGED SWORD

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

- A. Living

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- B. Powerful

2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

- C. Sharper than any two-edged sword.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17)

III. THE SWORD METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

- A. We're opening to dialoguing with the Holy Spirit to teaching us His God-breathed Word.

- B. We're reading to follow Jesus and do what the Word of God says.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:22-25)

IV. AN ABIDING ANOINTING

- A. You have received an anointing.

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)

- B. Everyone starts out as spiritual babes in Christ, but the invitation to be mighty in the Scriptures is open to all. (Matt. 11:12).

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty (strong, powerful, excelling) in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. (Acts 18:24)

V. READING AND APPLYING THE BIBLE

- A. We can know truth and our purpose in life. (John 17:17)
- B. We can know God as He has revealed Himself to us. (Acts 17:23)
- C. We can know the way to salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (1 John 5:13; Acts 4:12)
- D. We can grow spiritual and be nourished. (1 Pet. 2:2; Matt. 4:4)
- E. We can receive guidance and wisdom for our daily lives. (Psa. 119:105)
- F. We can receive victory over sin and temptation. (Psa. 119:11; Matt. 4:1-17; Eph. 6:17)
- G. We can be blessed in what we do as we obey God's Word. (James 1:22-25)