

GET WISDOM!

WITH JASON BARKER

THE ORTHODOX BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM FOR TEENS



If we engage in no other form of Bible study, we should at least engage in devotional reading. One of the great things about devotional reading is that it does not require any complicated techniques or additional research tools - the only thing it involves is prayerfully meditating on a biblical passage.

A key to devotional reading is to do at least a little of it everyday. You might not be able to be like St. Seraphim of Sarov, who read an entire Gospel book each day, but you can read the short readings from the Epistles and the Gospel that are assigned by the Church for each day. You can also follow the example of St. John Chrysostom, who recommends reading the Gospel assigned for each Divine Liturgy.

After creating a list of terms related to your topic, you'll then use a concordance to find places where your subject appears in the Bible. A biblical concordance is simply an alphabetical list of words, with the verses in which those words appear. Finally, you would examine the importance of the subject in your life, doing things like examining factors related to your topic. For example, when studying "peace" you could examine what the Bible says about some of the ways in which humans futilely pursue peace, as well as the thoughts and behaviors of biblical persons and saints that resulted in peace in their lives.

After looking into the background of the book, I then begin to look at

the content of the book itself. I start by going over the general content of the book - I outline the way the book is developed, and identify some of the main themes. I then look at each individual chapter, identifying the main message of the chapter and looking at the way this chapter relates to other chapters in the book. After taking a broad look at each chapter, I narrow my focus and look at key

EPISODE 2

HOW SHOULD I STUDY THE BIBLE?

words and ideas the writer uses to develop his message in the chapter. I finish by looking at verses from other biblical books that also discuss the points made by the writer in this chapter.

As you study the Bible you'll find yourself agreeing with St. John of Kronstadt, "I especially love to read the Holy Scriptures, both Testaments. I cannot live without this reading. They contain so much. So many laws for the life of a man's soul are revealed there! A person striving for spiritual renewal can obtain so much guidance in being reborn from evil to good."

I-WILL-DO-THIS-TODAY...

If you go into a bookstore to purchase a Bible, you will see many translations, with even more versions and types of Bibles. The number of different choices can be very confusing!

There is a very important question you will need to answer: "What Bible translation and version should I use?" The translation we use for our Bible studies is the *New King James Version*, or NKJV for short. The New King James Version is based upon the same biblical texts that the Church Fathers used when they studied the Bible.

We particularly recommend the [Orthodox Study Bible](#), published by [Conciliar Press](#). The Orthodox Study Bible uses the New King James Version, and includes helpful study notes and articles for Orthodox readers. The Orthodox Study Bible is also the official translation for the Bible Bowl competitions in the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese.



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