



## Sermon Notes: How Do I Study The Bible?

### 1. The Purpose of Bible Study.

- a. To hear from God.
- b. To understand and know God.

### 2. The Principles of Bible Study.

- a. Pay attention to the author's original meaning.
- b. Use clear texts to explain more difficult ones.
- c. Consider how a text may have a fuller sense as it relates to Christ and the overarching storyline of the Gospel and redemption.

### 3. The Process of Bible Study.

- a. Survey.
- b. Observe.
- c. Interpret.
- d. Apply.
- e. Minister.

### 4. The Promise of Bible Study.

- To enjoy the written Word of God is to enjoy the Living Word, Jesus Christ.



## Gospel Applications: How Do I Study The Bible?

Practice the SO-I-AM Method with “The Armor of God” passage in *Ephesians 6:10-20*. For these exercises, it helps to copy a text to 8.5 x 11” paper and print it out double- or triple-spaced.

### 1. Survey.

Read through the text at least twice. Record your high-level impressions:

- What words, phrases, or concepts jumped out at you?
- What questions did you have?
- What seems to be the central idea of this text?
- What can you learn about the background (author, audience, occasion)?

### 2. Observe.

Circle, underline, highlight, and otherwise mark up your text by noting:

- Key/repeated words or phrases (nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions).
- Transitions, cause-effect, question-answer, contrasts, parallels.
- Figures of speech, illustrations, explanations.
- Commands, prohibitions, promises.
- Plot (protagonist/antagonist, conflict, climax, resolution).
- Reflect: What’s your gut reaction? How does the text make you feel?

### 3. Interpret.

Begin assimilating your data and drawing conclusions, like:

- How would the original audience have understood these words?
- How would you restate the theme you wrote down in Step 1?
- What does this text teach about key biblical themes?
- How does this text point to the person and work of Christ?

### 4. Apply.

Think about what the meaning of the text means to you right now:

- What do you need to believe or trust?
- What do you need to confess or repent of?
- What do you need to stop or start (in thought, word, or deed)?
- How do you need to change or grow in light of this text?

### 5. Minister.

Use the true meaning of the text to love and serve others:

- What could you teach someone from this text?
- How could you use this text to comfort, encourage, or motivate?
- How could you use this text to exhort, warn, or counsel?
- How else could you use this text to love and serve others?