

Lesson 13: How to Study

Lesson Focus

“Study with Vision, Study with Purpose”

Base Scripture

Philippians 3:14, Ephesians 3:14-19

Aim

As we come to the final week of this 13-week journey and guided study. The letter to the Colossians caps off this in-depth study of disciple identity. The Study this week will give you vision for the kind of study you can regularly have with those you encounter to share God’s word.

Memory Verses:	Colossians 3:16 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
Goals: Student will learn:	Over the next week, learning to study helps all Christian Disciple makers teach and study with potential new disciples. How to study with vision & purpose will help those who dare to disciple other feel more confident doing so.

Daily Activities for the Week

Introduction

The book of Colossians teaches us a lot about discipleship. At the heart of discipleship is a life of thanksgiving for what Christ has done for us. Discipleship results from the awareness that Christ has redeemed us from a life of slavery. Discipleship involves suffering in joy while serving Christ. Discipleship is about growing to maturity in Jesus. Many churches develop discipleship programs to help members do this, usually with accountability groups and group Bible studies. While such programs can be helpful, they are not *necessary* for discipleship to take place. What we need more than accountability groups for discipleship is intimacy with the Bible. When you start to dig into the Scriptures, you find there is *plenty* of incentive and encouragement to grow toward Christian maturity. Colossians is a great example of a book that gives exactly those things.

Wednesday **Introduction and Background**

1. Using your study bible, dictionary or commentary read the background of Colossians. Understand what concerns motivated Paul to write this letter.
2. Read Colossians 1:1-14 underline key phases as you read.
3. What kind of life is pleasing to God in every way?

Thursday **The All-Sufficiency of Jesus**

1. Read Colossians 1:15-18 underline key phases as you read.
2. Knowing the Colossians Christians may be under the influence of those who have an inadequate view of Christ, what message is Paul wanting them to understand?
3. What is the personal significance of verse 17 for your life?

Friday **A Heart for Others**

1. Read Colossians 1:28-2:15
 - What passion did Paul have?
 - How does God want to use you in the same way?
 - How will you let others help you toward “Being perfect in Christ”?

Saturday **Watch Out For False Teaching**

1. Read Colossians 2:16-23
2. Look for 3 major misleading false teachings that the Colossians were being tempted to fall into.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Sunday **Out With Old and In With the New**

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17
2. What reason does Paul give in verses 1-3 for living a new and different life?
3. What things that belong to your earthly nature still need to be put to death?

Monday**Everyday Relationships**

1. Read Colossians 3:18-4:2
2. Compare that with Ephesians 5:21-6:9
3. What do all these things talked about have in common?

Tuesday**For the Rest of Your Life**

1. Read Colossians 4
2. Why is Epaphras a great example for us?
3. What characterizes the approach to prayer?
4. Why is his approach to prayer a necessary one?

Final Thoughts

This is the last day of your guided study. At this point you need to formulate plans for continuing your own personal Bible study. There are many ways for you to proceed. One suggestion is to pick a certain gospel, letter, etc., and work your way through it verse by verse. Use the type of study done in Colossians and study books like 1 John, 1 Peter or Philippians in the same way. Perhaps you want to study a certain theme in the Bible like "trust" or do some character studies of men and women in the Bible.

Whatever you decide to do, have a specific plan. Beware of the "lucky dip" method that involves just letting the Bible fall open somewhere each day. That may be often used but it is unproductive. Write down what you plan to study next.

As you leave this study, you should not think that you are through looking at these ideas. You will need to come back to them again and again. Many have worked through this material after being Christians and then have done it again a year or two later, finding that after a time of growth the concepts get even richer.

May God bless you in your future study of his will for your life! Make being with God every day for the rest of your life a joyful habit that you would not think of living without!