

# Leader's Guide

## Let's Explore Our Faith

### Lesson 8 · Bible Study

#### Aims:

- To know a basic Bible study method and be familiar Bible study resources
- To understand both their need and capacity for studying God's Word
- To respond with a commitment to daily Bible study for one week

#### Preparation:

- Re-read the *Article of Faith 2*. (concerning the Bible) and *1.d.* (concerning the Holy Spirit). Note questions that come to mind as you view these articles from a Bible study perspective. Any question(s) you have may be the same one(s) your students ask. Read the Scriptural basis for this lesson: *2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119: 1-8; Proverbs 2:1-6; John 14:26, 16:13-15; Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Corinthians 2:12*
- Highlight the connections between the key points of the lesson and the Scripture passages referenced.
- Prepare the student lesson.
- Familiarize yourself with the 3-Step Discovery method of Bible study and the Bible study resources introduced to the children.

#### Needed:

- Student workbook, Bible and pencil for each student
- Copy(ies) of *MC Constitution with Articles of Faith and Practice*
- Marker board, markers and eraser
- A penny for each student
- Copy(ies) of the following Bible study resources: Bible dictionary, Bible atlas/maps, Bible handbook, Bible concordance, Bible commentary, Topical Index. Check with your church library or your pastor if you don't have these personally.
- Colored pencils, crayons or markers

#### Getting Started:

Begin your class with a short prayer. Ask God to help students understand what He wants to say to them about their need to fill their lives with His Word.

Distribute *Student Workbooks*, Bibles, and pencils. Students answer first question on page 1, telling of the biggest discovery they have ever made. Volunteers answer. Say, **We certainly have made a lot of discoveries, both big and little. But they didn't happen automatically. What did you have to do to make this discovery?** Again have volunteers answer. Guide the discussion to make the point that one needs to search in order to find. Give a penny to each student. Now say, **Let's have a little discovery fun with these pennies.** Allow two or three minutes for students to hunt on their coins for the items listed in their workbooks. Encourage students to dig a little and think outside the box. When time is up, share the answers. (Answers: *name of a country*—United States, *oriental fruit*—date, *rabbit*—hair [hare], *body of water*—"C" [sea], *apostle*—"one cent" [an apostle is *one who is sent*], *flowers*—two lips [tulips]) Be ready for some groans, and take a moment to laugh about the silliness of the penny trivia. Transition into the lesson by reading aloud the two paragraphs that follow the penny trivia in the *Student Workbooks*.

#### Study:

Direct the students' attention to the two paragraphs in the workbook under the *Articles of Faith* heading. Ask for a volunteer to read the first paragraph, "*The Missionary Church does not...*" Emphasize that even though the Missionary Church does not have a separate *Article* about studying Scripture, our beliefs are based on the truths taught in God's Word. Briefly review with students the key points made about the Bible in Lesson 1.

Now direct the student's attention to the second paragraph. Ask for a volunteer to read that second paragraph, "*God's Word is key....*" Work through the study material as a group. As needed, ask students to read the Scripture passages aloud.

#### Question 1. Why should we study the Bible?

(Answers: *who, created, rules, loves*) Stress to the students that God's Word is critical to our spiritual growth. God uses His Word to teach us, tell

us when we've sinned, correct us, help us live lives that please Him, and as a weapon against the temptation to sin.

Have students complete the Psalm 119:1-8 exercise and share their answers. (Answers—List 1: *law, statutes, precepts, decrees, commands, righteous laws*) (Answers—List 2: *walk according to it, keep it, fully obey it, consider it all, learn it*) (Answers—List 3: *blessed, does nothing wrong, walk in his ways, not put to shame, have an upright heart*) Make the point that the best life we can possibly live is found in following God's instructions, obeying His commands and enjoying His love. If we do not pay attention to God's Word, we miss out on all of God's blessing and happiness.

### **Question 2. How should we study the Bible?**

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 2:1-6. (Answers: *search, understanding, hidden, treasure*) Explain that a student can learn from the Bible in lots of ways. But studying Scripture involves carefully examining it and asking questions to find God's truth.

Have 1-2 volunteers read aloud the mine and treasure paragraphs. Then have students complete the object match. (Answers: *map-a plan, method or strategy, calendar-a daily time to study, toolbox-supply of other books or Bible tools, light-the Holy Spirit to shine God's light*) Emphasize that the map, calendar, and toolbox are useless without the light. The same is true in Bible study. Our goal is to find what God has for us in His Word. Without the Holy Spirit to shine God's light on His Word, the rest is useless.

**The Map.** (Answers: *observation, interpretation, application*) Reaffirm that even a child their age can study the Bible by asking and answering the questions of the 3-Step Discovery method. Remind the students that every question asked will not have an answer; depending on what Scripture is studied. Also, stress that Bible study includes writing down what you learn, so students should have a notebook and pencil handy at all times.

Walk your students through the key questions and helpful hints for each step of the 3-Step Discovery method. Tell students, **Now we are going to practice the 3-Step Discovery using Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-27.** Have each student open their Bible to Matthew 7:24-27. Allow 7-10 minutes for this exercise. You may want to let students work in pairs or groups of three. Be available to rotate among the students or groups to encourage and answer questions. *Note: Leader, it is imperative*

*that you do your own study of the passage as part of your lesson preparation. Then you will be more confident and able to help your students.* When time is up, have each group present a short report.

**The Calendar.** Ask students, **Why is it important to daily spend time studying God's Word?** Allow responses. Then emphasize that regular Bible study is important because it helps them grow as they realize who God is, what He is like and how He wants them to live. Have students complete the code exercise to discover some tips for daily time in God's Word. (Answers: *time, place, minutes, study, prayer, give*).

When you review the answers as a group, briefly elaborate on each. When planning a day, *time* in God's Word should rank right up there with homework, dance classes, and baseball. A quiet *place* to study helps us concentrate on God and what He is saying to us in His Word. How long a child spends in Bible study will depend on their age, but a good place to start is *10 minutes*. They will want to add more time later. Here's a suggested schedule for how they can use their 10 minutes to include both Bible study and prayer: 1 minute – Ask God to help you understand what He wants to say to you through His Word; 2 minutes – read the Scripture verset(s) [children's devotionals are helpful in selecting Scripture]; 4 minutes – use *The 3-Step Discovery*, being sure to write down your answers in a notebook; 3 minutes – Pray. Talk to God about how you will practice what you've learned and any other prayer requests you might have. Finally, maybe you miss a day of Bible study or there's a day when the Scripture was hard to understand. Whatever happens, don't give up studying God's Word. Emphasize that God will bless them for trying.

**The Toolbox.** Direct students' attention to the display of Bible tools or study resources. Stress that Bible tools do not take the place of our own study. Encourage students to do as much study on their own as possible, then turn to a Bible tool. As you identify a tool, tell when to use it and how to use it, have students use colored pencils, markers to crayons to color-code the tool table in their *Workbook*. (Answers: *Topical Index—...Explore what the Bible says about a topic or subject—Lists subjects alphabetically; Bible Dictionary—...Want to know what words...mean in the Bible—Like a regular dictionary; Bible Concordance—...Want to find a Bible verse, but can only remember key word—Lists words alphabetically; Bible Atlas/Maps—...Want information about Bible lands—Lists place names alphabetically; Bible Commentary/Handbook—...Explore further what the Bible means—Most go through the Bible book-by-book*)

## Let's Review.

Have students work alone to unscramble the bolded words using the clues given in each sentence. (Answers: *observation, rules, treasure, Bible dictionary, illumination*)

Emphasize the *Scripture to Learn*. To teach 2 Timothy 2:15 to students, read the verse together a couple of times. Decide which word in the verse is the middle. Write that word in the middle of a marker board or long piece of poster paper. Ask for a volunteer to tell the word that comes before or after that middle word. Write word(s) in the right space. Keep building the verse by asking volunteers to write the correct *before* or *after* words. When the Bible verse is complete, read it together again.

## My Response:

Have students work alone to finish the commitment card in the *My Response* section of their workbook. Invite students to personally come and share their answer with you. Follow-up the next week by asking how many students kept their promise and spent daily time in God's Word.

Allow students to investigate the Bible tools. Use the following questions or exercises to give students firsthand experience in using the tools: *Topical Index*—1. What does the Bible say about sleep? 2. What does the Bible say about honesty? · *Bible Dictionary*—Find what these words or names mean in the Bible: blessed, cupbearer, lyre, Damaris · *Bible Concordance*—Point out that most Bibles today have a small concordance in the back. Have students check their Bibles. Then read the following verses without giving the Bible reference. Have your students tell you where they are found by looking in the concordance for a key word: Romans 8:29, Ephesians 2:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 · *Bible Atlas/Maps*—Have students identify the map numbers and grid number/letter combinations for the locations you name. Then have them find each location in the atlas: Red Sea, Ur, Capernaum, Philippi · *Bible Commentary/Handbook*—Have students look up Matthew 7:24-27, used earlier to practice *The 3-Step Discovery*. Have them share what else they might have learned.

**The Light.** Ask for a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 2:12. (Answers: *received, God, understand*) Remind students that a miner's map, calendar and toolbox are not the most important things. His goal is the treasure in the mine! Our study of God's Word is like that. Our plan or method of study, the daily time and the supply of Bible tools are only meant to help us find what God is saying to us. Our goal is to discover the treasure—what He wants us to learn in His Word. To reach that goal, we need a special source of light—the Holy Spirit's illumination. Have students work in pairs to read the passages from John and list the words which explain how the Holy Spirit helps us understand the Scriptures. (Answers: *He will—teach us all things, remind us of what God has said, guide us into all truth, speak what He hears, tell us what is yet to come, make it known to us*)

## Let's Explore Our Faith Lesson 8 · Bible Study

**What's the biggest discovery you've ever made?**

Write or draw your answers.

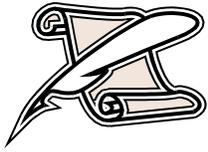
**What can you discover on a penny?**

Write or draw your answers.

Can you find: the name of a country, an *oriental fruit*,  
a *rabbit*, a large *body of water*, an *apostle*, some *flowers*?

Did you realize all you could find on a single penny? Probably not—it would be easy to overlook such “cents-less” penny trivia. But sometimes we do not notice things around us because we are not looking for them.

Because the Bible is God's message, He wants us to understand it. And finding God's truth takes effort and searching, just like discovering what was on the penny. To understand the Bible, we need to study it. Let's explore some good reasons for studying the Bible, and also some helpful tools to use in studying God's Word.



## Article of Faith

The Missionary Church does not have a separate *Article* about studying the Bible, but remember that we believe *the Bible is the Word of God given by divine inspiration and is ... the unchanging authority in matters of Christian faith and practice.* Our *Articles of Faith and Practice* are based directly on the Word of God!

God's Word is key to growing as a believer in Jesus Christ. Through God's Word we become His friends and understand how He wants us to live. So in this lesson we will answer two main questions about studying God's Word, the Bible: *Why should we study the Bible?* and *How should we study the Bible?*

### Question 1. Why should we study the Bible?

Unscramble the following words and place them in the correct spaces below.

DETEARC    SVELO    HOW    UERLS

We should study the Bible...

...Because of \_\_\_\_\_ God is.

God is our Creator, our King and the One who loves us best! The Bible is a great place to get to know God. And because the Bible is God's Word, we can trust what it says about God is true.

...Because God \_\_\_\_\_ us.

He knows exactly how He designed us to live. His Word is an *instruction manual* for life. In the Bible, God tells us how to live lives that honor Him.

...Because God \_\_\_\_\_ over us.

God has the right to command us to obey Him, and the Bible is His *rule book*. In the Bible, God tells us everything we need to know to obey Him.

...Because God \_\_\_\_\_ us.

God wants what is best for us in every way. The Scriptures are His *love letter* telling us about the wonderful life He has planned for us.

Studying the Bible can help us follow God's instructions, obey His commands, and enjoy His love. If we ignore His Word, we will miss out on the best life we could possibly live. **Read Psalm 119:1-8 and complete the following lists.**

List all the words that mean the same as God's Word, Bible or Scriptures:

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List all the words that tell us what we should do with God's Word:

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List all the words that tell what kind of life we will have when we follow God's instructions, obey His commands, and enjoy His love.

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## Question 2. How should we study the Bible?

You can learn from the Bible in several ways: listening to, reading, reflecting on, memorizing, applying, and telling others. So how is *studying the Bible* different from all of these? When we study the Bible, we carefully search for and examine God's truth in it. We ask and answer questions to help us better understand God's message. **Read Proverbs 2:1-6 and fill in the blanks.**

We should s\_\_\_\_\_ for wisdom and u\_\_\_\_\_

as for h\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_

Just imagine the Bible as a mine filled with valuable treasure—gold, silver and priceless jewels. All of these treasures, however, are buried in the rock. To enjoy them, an explorer or miner must dig them out. And to uncover the most treasure, the explorer or miner will need four important objects—a **map** that tells where to dig; a **calendar** that tells the best time to dig; a **toolbox** filled with tools for digging, sifting, and sorting; and a **light** to see what he is doing.

God's Word is filled with amazing treasures to help us live in a right way that pleases Him. But some of the treasures in the Bible seem to be hidden or hard to understand. Just as the miner must dig out the treasures to enjoy them, to find or better understand what God tells us in the Bible we must study it. And just like the explorer or miner, to learn the most from God's Word, we will need four important objects. **Draw lines from the objects used to how they help us in studying the Bible.**

MAP	A daily time to study and pray
CALENDAR	The Holy Spirit to shine God's spiritual light on the Bible
TOOLBOX	Supply of other books or Bible tools to help us search the Scripture
LIGHT	A plan, method, or strategy to help us find the Bible's "treasure"

Let's look at each one of these more closely.

### **The Map • My Plan, Method or Strategy for Finding the Bible's Treasures**

One of the best and easiest methods or strategies for understanding the Bible is called *The 3-Step Discovery*. Here's how it works. Find a Bible verse or passage that teaches about your subject. Read the verse(s). Then take a few minutes to think about it. With a paper and pencil handy, ask yourself three questions: *What does it say?* *What does it mean?* and *How does it apply to me?* These three questions make up *The 3-Step Discovery* Bible study method.

**Step 1.** **O** \_\_\_\_\_ asks, "What does it say?" Here are some helpful OBSERVATION hints. Read the Bible verse(s) carefully. Next, write down your answers to these questions about the Scripture you read: *Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?* Then, write a title for the verse(s) and a key word that describes the passage.

**Step 2.** **I** \_\_\_\_\_ asks, "What does it mean?" Here are some helpful INTERPRETATION hints. Look again at the verse(s) you read, and underline key words or phrases. Next, write the passage in your own words. Then write one sentence that gives the basic thought or main idea of the passage. Next, list any truths and/or principles you discover. You can uncover truths or principles by asking, "Are there any: commands to obey, sins to avoid, promises to trust, examples to follow, etc.?" At this point, you can also check other Scriptures that have the same topic. Some of the tools in your toolbox, such as a concordance, will be helpful here. Finally, write down the message you believe God is trying to give you.

**Step 3.** **A** \_\_\_\_\_ asks, "How does it apply to me?" Here are some helpful APPLICATION hints. First, list the ways you can practice what you have learned in the verse(s). Then circle one item on your list that you will do or work at in the next week.

**Now, try *The 3-Step Discovery* using Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders, Matthew 7:24-27.**

**OBSERVATION:**

**INTERPRETATION:**

**APPLICATION:**

## The Calendar • My Daily Time in God's Word

God's Word has the power to change our lives to be more like Jesus. That is why it is so important for every believer to spend time each day studying Scripture, and praying (or talking) to God. Just like daily food helps your body grow healthy and strong, daily time in God's Word helps you grow spiritually strong—and is key to your relationship with God. **Use the simple code in the box to complete these tips for daily time in God's Word. (For example, 10-9-5 = car)**

### CODE

v=1 e=2 g=3 m=4 r=5 i=6 y=7 t=8 a=9  
c=10 s=11 d=12 u=13 l=14 n=15 p=16

1. Decide what **(8-6-4-2)** \_\_\_\_\_ of day would be best for your time with God.
2. Choose a quiet **(16-14-9-10-2)** \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Plan to spend from 10-30 **(4-6-15-13-8-2-11)** \_\_\_\_\_ a day.
4. Schedule your time to include both Bible **(11-8-13-12-7)** \_\_\_\_\_ and **(16-5-9-7-2-5)** \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Don't **(3-6-1-2)** \_\_\_\_\_ up on your daily time in God's Word.

## The Toolbox • My Supply of Bible Tools for Searching the Scripture

Studying the Bible for ourselves is important. But sometimes we need a little help to dig deeper and better understand what the Bible is saying to us. Bible tools do just that. They are guides that help us learn more about the treasures we find in God's Word. Because there are several tools to choose from, it's important to know what each tool is, when to use it and how to use it. **As your teacher describes each tool, make a triple match by shading the three related boxes (one from each column). Use a different color for each tool.**

### My Light • The Holy Spirit Shines God's Spiritual Light on the Bible

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12. Then fill in the missing words.

"We have not r\_\_\_\_\_ the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from  
G\_\_\_\_\_ that we may u\_\_\_\_\_ what  
God has freely given us."

Just as an explorer or miner **illuminates** (or shines light on) the mine so he can see to dig for the treasure, the Holy Spirit **illuminates** (or shines God's spiritual light on) the Bible, so that we can discover and clearly understand God's will for our lives! The Holy Spirit's **illumination** is part of His work in the church and key to all Bible study.

The Tool	When to Use It	How to Use It
Topical Index	When you want to find a Bible verse, but can only remember a key word or phrase. Or when you want to explore which Bible verses use a certain word.	Lists place names alphabetically. Use the map number and grid number/letter combination after the name to find the place you want on a certain map.
Bible Dictionary	When you want information about Bible lands.	Like a regular dictionary, just look up the word(s) alphabetically.
Bible Concordance	When you want to explore what the Bible says about a topic or subject.	Lists subjects alphabetically. Bible verses for each topic are in order from Genesis to Revelation.
Bible Atlas/Maps	When you want to know what words or names of people, places, objects, and events mean in the Bible.	Most go through the Bible book-by-book. Look up the chapter and verse you want to learn more about.
Bible Commentary/Handbook	When you want to explore further what the Bible means.	Lists words alphabetically. Look up the word. Read through the list of verses that use the word to find the one you want.

Read John 14:26 and John 16:13-15. List the phrases that tell us how the Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



## Let's Review.

What am I? Unscramble each bolded name using the clues given in each sentence. Your answers will be key words from our lesson on Bible study.

1. I ask, "What does it say?" and am the 2<sup>nd</sup> step in the 3-Step Discovery.

What am I?     **NOITAVRESBO** \_\_\_\_\_

2. I am one reason you should study the Bible—because God \_\_\_\_\_ over us.

What am I?     **URELS** \_\_\_\_\_

3. I am what a miner digs for, and what you search for in the Scripture.

What am I?     **RAUETESR** \_\_\_\_\_

4. I am the Bible tool you use when you want to know what words or names of people, places, objects and events mean in the Bible.

What am I?     **IBBEL OITCIDYRAN** \_\_\_\_\_

5. As part of the Holy Spirit's work in the church, I am the key to Bible study.

What am I?     **LLMNTNIUIAIO** \_\_\_\_\_



## Scripture to Learn.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

## My Response .



You can make a commitment to spend daily time in God’s Word. **Fill out the blanks below to help you cement your decision. As you keep your promise, write the Bible verse(s) you explored on the line for that day.**

Starting tomorrow and for the next seven days,

I will spend daily time in God’s Word.

I will spend at least \_\_\_\_\_ minutes each day.

\_\_\_\_\_ would be the best time of day for my Bible study.

My quiet place will be \_\_\_\_\_ .

Signed, \_\_\_\_\_

Day 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 7: \_\_\_\_\_