

BIBLE VERSE MAPPING

FOR BEGINNERS

1

PRAY

As you come before God, simply ask for the Holy Spirit to guide your time in His Word. Verse mapping is very Spirit led. It is a personal experience between you and your Creator. Invite Him to join you and rest in knowing that He is the one guiding.

2

CHOOSE YOUR VERSE

Choose your verse and write it out. I always recommend using a word-for-word translation rather than a thought-for-thought translation. I usually choose ESV or NASB for my main verse. It makes it easier to look up keywords in the Bible Lexicon and Concordance. Not sure what verse to choose? We offer a variety of themed mapping plans to help!

3

TRANSLATIONS

Look up and write out 2-3 alternate translations of your verse. I use Bible Hub for this step but you can use actual Bibles or another site/app on your smart phone. This is where you can start looking into thought-to-thought translations. You are looking for differences within the translations. What words are different than your main verse? What phrases have been altered? What ideas/words/concepts stand out to you? I like to highlight or underline words that are different or things that stand out.

4

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Context is so important as you dig into scripture. Make sure you read the surrounding verses, or chapter, or better yet, the book that your verse is in. Who wrote it? When? Who was the intended audience? Why was it written? Jot down major events that are taking place around the verse. Really any information that is important to the context of the verse. A study Bible comes in handy when looking up context.

KEY WORD STUDY

5

In your main verse, identify and highlight keywords. There is no right or wrong way to do this. What words you choose are completely up to you. What stands out to you? Are there repeated words? Maybe words that need clarification? You will be using a Bible Lexicon or Concordance to find the original Greek or Hebrew definition to each keyword. This is your word study! Just a warning, they are addicting and SO SO FUN!

6

CROSS REFERENCES

Where else in scripture did God talk about this topic? When you start digging into scripture in this way, the connections become so clear. Be prepared to be blown away by God and His Word! I use Bible Hub for this step also. I like to choose 3-4 translations but there are times when I'm pulling out the sticky notes because there's so much more I want to include!

7

VIEW OF GOD

Steps 1-5 are a rush! Now it's time to slow back down, read over everything you've gathered and ask yourself what it reveals about God. Who does God say He is? Sometimes I must sit here awhile and ponder everything I've learned. I pray more.

8

VIEW OF MAN/SELF

Based on everything you've gathered, what have you learned about mankind or yourself? What kind of struggles do we face? What should we be doing? What does God's word reveal about us?

9

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

This is where the rubber hits the road. It's time to take this personal and think about how your life compares to everything you've learned. I like to ask myself a lot of questions and am always thinking of what I need to do to apply the truths I've learned to my own life.

10

PRAYER

Let's start with prayer and end with prayer. There really is no better way.