

TITLE: BIBS Lesson 1 – Approach Bible Study By Uncovering the Author's Intent

TEXT: 2 Tim 3:13-17

I. Read

A. *We call this the BIG IDEA BIBLE STUDY*

1. Typically might preach more
2. This series – teaching HOW to do the Bible study
3. After tonight, simply talking ABOUT Bible study in general
 - a) The other parts of the series will go through
 - b) Observation, interpretation, application
 - c) And all the steps and tools that go into each of those
4. We'll go through a lot of info but it will seem basic to some
 - a) as if you already know all this.
 - b) You probably do.
5. I want every minute of the Bible study series to be beneficial
 - a) I despise lectures that I pretty much already know and believe.
6. I always want to learn things that are new, so I'm sharing with you things that I partially know,
 - a) but hopefully we'll have plenty of benefit to you.

7. I have witnessed it in laypeople, Bible students, and even preachers.
 - a) So it seems to me that no matter who you are, this can help you.
8. BIBS book intro - preacher told us to read our Bible.
 - a) We WANT to, but we don't know how.
9. New Christian
 - a) Old Christian - think people should expect, but you don't know how.
 - b) You've never been trained
 - c) Or, you're self-trained, but you feel like you sometimes still don't understand it
10. Or, you're a seasoned Christian and you've been studying Scripture for years.
 - a) This BIBS method can help all of us, even you.
 - b) If anything, it is just a different, fresh approach to Scripture.
11. I'm really trying to make it beneficial to everyone.
 - a) So tonight we'll introduce a bunch of concepts
 - b) Then in the future weeks we will further explain and expand each concept

B. 2 Tim 3:13-17

1. We will get to these verses a bit later
2. Won't take time on the WHOLE passage like we normally would

C. PRAY

II. Most church-goers might rate themselves well on a Bible knowledge test.

A. Comparatively speaking, you might know more than the new Christian or the average church member of another kind of church.

1. You might score high in Bible Trivial Pursuit games,
2. you might have memorized a lot of Scripture, or
3. you might know a lot of Bible stories from having taught them for years to children.

B. To be candid, I used to think so, myself.

1. I had memorized several full chapters of the Bible for Bible quiz teams,
2. and in Awana
3. I had grown up hearing the stories taught
 - a) I was even called to preach just after graduation.
 - b) I was a PK
4. I felt like, sure, I didn't know everything—everyone knows that—but I still felt at least knowledgeable.

C. And you might be like me in that.

III. It wasn't until college that I had a whole new way of even VIEWING the Bible

A. I'm sure it was taught to me earlier than college, but I never got it, apparently.

B. Because I still viewed the Bible merely as a collection of stories.

1. It was just "Bible" stuff
2. In "Bible" language

C. And when I said, "In Bible times..." I just meant... ALL of ancient history.

1. I didn't realize that "Bible Times" meant a span of thousands of years.

D. I mean, Adam had sons and daughters.

1. I'm guessing he had a son or grandson near the end of his life.
2. Each of these guys are living to be about a thousand years old!

E. So Jesus lived about 2000 years ago, and we think THAT is ancient history.

1. That's NOTHING!
2. I mean, 2000 years is just two guys' lifetimes. That's pretty short.
3. But I never really thought like that

F. Also, I never thought of MEN actually writing the Scripture.

1. I never thought of the Bible as LITERATURE

2. I never realized that Paul was so educated
3. and he used the style of his day
4. He was a blogger!

G. He used the latest tips and tricks of the Greek language to preach and write

IV. YES, God wrote the Bible.

A. It's an IMPOSSIBLE book without God.

B. But he did not write it completely OUTSIDE man.

1. He wrote it by USING man.

*C. I never realized how beautiful ancient **poetry** could be*

*D. I never realized how rich the **Psalms** were until I started to understand that that's how people communicated.*

*E. I never understood why the **historical** books were useful, or so full of detail*

1. until I read it from THEIR perspective FIRST.

V. See, I always looked for ME first.

A. I looked for Bible Truth that could help me.

*B. So the story of **David** was about*

1. what I could learn from what HE did.

*C. I approached his **Psalms** as a message from God written **ONLY** to me.*

1. I emphasize ONLY.

2. Because it wasn't ONLY written to me.
3. It was written to someone else, first.

D. What I was doing was actually an upside-down approach to Scripture.

1. I was trying to search for ME first, and I would end up confused
2. Or worse, wrong!

E. I would arrive at conclusions that I thought were GOD'S

1. Because, after all, "I got it from the Bible"
2. But were entirely inaccurate.
3. Because I started with ME in mind.

F. Have you done that?

1. We all understand that the Scriptures are valuable and beneficial.
2. No matter what, we can learn from them

G. But be careful about taking EVERY text everywhere

1. And making it mean something TO YOU.
2. You need to FIRST understand it from GOD'S perspective

H. Then take it home to yourself.

VI. See, I don't mean to make this a HUMAN book.

A. Or somehow lessen its importance

1. Or power in our lives
2. Or authority

B. In fact, it's an IMPOSSIBLE book

1. If it were human
2. We would NEVER have this book if it were up to humans

C. This IS God's Word – supernatural

1. And we have good evidence to support that claim

VII. The prophecies alone get me

A. There are about 61 prophecies about the man Jesus Christ

B. Mathematicians have calculated 8 of them

1. Just 8
2. Not all 60+
3. Just 8

C. If 8 predictions were to come true in ONE MAN

1. As they did in the historical human name Jesus Christ

D. The probability is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000

1. That's 17 zeros!

2. !) If you cover the state of Texas in that many half-dollars, you would have a pile 2 feet deep. Now mark one, blindfold someone and have him find your mark

VIII. It is a **supernatural book**

- A. *It's the book of God*
- B. *It's the book that keeps you on the straight and narrow*
 1. But you have to be IN IT!
- C. *See, Timothy had Paul as a mentor,*
 1. We might think that's a benefit
 2. But we've got it better than him!
- D. *We have the benefit of reading over Timothy's shoulder!*
 1. And Paul's advice to Timothy is no different than the advice he'd give you today!

IX. V12 – you're going to be persecuted, Timothy

- A. *ALL who live godly will*

X. V13 – and the world gets worse and worse

- A. *It's a horrible place to live!*

XI. BUT – V14 – BUT continue thou...

- A. *Keep going in them!*
 1. What things?

B. The things you've been taught since boyhood

1. Mom and grandma

C. What's the BEST thing you learned from your godly heritage?!

1. The SCRIPTURES!
2. The holy scriptures

D. They are able to make you wise to salvation

1. Through faith in Christ Jesus

XII. Here's a verse we all know: V16

A. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God

1. No matter where
2. No matter what text
3. God breathed it

B. He had a particular problem he was addressing

1. A sin to fix
2. A truth to believe
3. A people to encourage

C. Knowing WHY Scripture was FIRST SPOKEN is half the battle.

1. Paul says THIS is what you need to live godly lives
2. This is ALL you need!

3. Because it addresses ALL needs!

XIII. God cares enough about communicating to us – progressively

A. That he gave us His Word

1. Adam he spoke directly to
2. Noah he spoke to
3. Moses he spoke to
4. But then Moses preached AND wrote

B. God spoke through His Word – the Law

1. When things weren't addressed in the law
2. They were brought to Moses

C. The judges

D. The kings

E. The prophets

1. God spoke
2. The Prophets preached
3. And then, usually, the prophets wrote down their sermons

F. On and on

G. In the New Testament

1. Men lived with Christ

2. They watched him live and die
3. They were first-hand witnesses
4. They SAW it
 - a) God told them to write their stories

H. So they did

1. With their take on it
2. With their intention
3. With an audience
4. Written to people

I. Then churches were established

1. Based on the authority of
 - a) Christ
 - b) Apostles
 - c) Scripture
2. And eye-witnesses of Christ, including Paul,
 - a) Wrote with GOD'S authority
 - b) To churches
 - c) To Pastors
 - d) To Christians

J. For a purpose.

1. But progressively.
2. God spoke a little.
3. Man wrote a little
4. Man had questions, God had already spoken:
“Search the Word.”
5. Man: But it’s not there?
6. God: “Here’s more instruction.”

XIV. God SPOKE. It’s our FIRST duty as Bible studiers

A. *To know what God SAID.*

1. This is a book of the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

B. *But it was PENNED in the past*

C. ***Definition: The Bible is the Word of God, progressively penned by Divinely inspired humans to eternally convey God’s thoughts to man.***

D. *The Bible is complete.*

1. **It’s our duty as Christians now to study out what God SAID**
2. To find out **what God is SAYING** still today and for our future.

XV. So, I call this the BIBS method

A. *It’s simple enough*

1. Because it’s broken down into several easy-to-understand steps

B. But it's still profound

1. Deep
2. Like a mine

C. And the BIBS method gets you into basic Bible hermeneutics or interpretation.

XVI. BTW, I'm not even saying it's the RIGHT approach.

*A. This is an INDUCTIVE study, meaning that we are taking the pieces and **building something bigger**.*

1. We're funneling data down to a point.
 - a) A big idea.
2. We're reading, and discovering a point
 - a) Just like a THANK YOU LETTER has a central point
 - b) And a business letter has a point,
 - c) So does the Bible

B. We're not starting with a point and running to Scripture to try to back it up.

XVII. I think BIBS is correct, because sometimes we get Bible study upside down.

A. "I've got this really good topic I want to share... now if only I could find a text that would back me up."

B. Or, "I know people who need to hear a sermon on prayer (or music, or...) and now I need to go find a text."

XVIII. You know what's a LOT easier?

A. *What's a lot easier is this...*

1. "Hm... where am I in my Bible reading today?
2. Oh... James...
3. Oh... 2 Chronicles.
4. Oh... Ezra.
5. Oh, Leviticus...
6. Oh, 1 John...
7. I'm excited to learn today what God SAID, and what He is still SAYING to me today."

XIX. Great courses – Analyzing ancient literature (secular)

A. *"Analysis and Critique" course by Tilar Mazeo.*

1. Literature scholar and professor instructing on how to read, analyze and critique a text, whether it is poetry, drama, short story, college essay or what have you.

B. *Each passage can be critiqued, analyzed, picked apart to find its benefit and meaning.*

1. Author intent is huge.
2. The yellow wallpaper. History of the writer. It's a paper about gender inequality.

C. *Why are people so good at finding author intent in literature*

1. But never give it a thought
2. When it comes to the MOST important piece of literature ever?

XX. Just finished the autobiography of Ben Franklin

A. Ben Franklin was turned off to religion in general because a preacher mishandled the Word of God

1. Presbyterian. "Preached so as to make the congregation Presbyterian instead of the Bible literate."
2. Made Philippians 4:8-9 say that we should remember Sabbath, keep the sacraments, stay in church and other statements.
 - a) He said "I should have stayed on longer if he were a better preacher."

B. All because a preacher

1. Made the text say what HE wanted to say
2. Instead of letting GOD speak through the text

XXI. It's a supernatural book.

A. And it claims to want to help you.

B. AND, it claims to have ALL the answers you could ever need.

1. It's never let me down
2. I know a lot of other people who would say the same thing

C. So do the work of learning how to study it

XXII. I have a section of books on my shelves

A. Baptist history

1. Baptist distinctives
2. Took the classes
3. Took the notes

B. And forgot all of it

1. Until one day I was confronted by a man from another type of religion,
2. It forced me into those books to get it for MYSELF
3. I put in a lot of time studying.

C. More books – Teen devotionals

1. I was SURE they would make me a good Christian
2. Until they just sat there
3. I'd read them every so often, but never took the time to make it personal.
4. I FELT good, having the library, but it DID me NO good since I wasn't using it.

D. But it was kind of a false hope

XXIII. I don't mean for this BIBS series to give you a false hope

A. Don't trust the METHOD

B. And don't assume that THIS will be your Cure-All for your life

1. This Bible study stuff still takes a lot of WORK!
2. Thinking!
3. Studying
4. Reading!
5. Uuugh!

C. But I'm praying that this method can HELP you

1. If you're willing to do the work.