

Tools of Bible Study—Hands-on Training



1. Look up I Peter 1:3-9 in the King James Version, the New International Version, the New Living Translation, and The Message...compare and record your observations. Note—it's always helpful when studying a passage to look at several translations.
2. Using a Concordance, find the reference for the verse: "*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.*" With this tool, you'll no longer have trouble finding a particular verse. Hint—pick the least common word in the verse.
3. Review the Scripture verses concerning the subject of divorce listed in a Topical Bible. Some references will deal with the concept without using the actual word. There are also lots of Christian books on marriage that can prevent divorce!
4. What in the world are the urim and thummin? Consult a Bible dictionary, Bible Handbook, or Bible encyclopedia (you *could* try a Google search, but a trusted reference work may be more reliable)
5. What does the word *righteousness* mean? (dikaisune in the original New Testament/koine Greek). Consult a lexicon, expository dictionary, or theological wordbook. These are books that explain in detail what the original language means.
6. What is the doctrine of *adoption*? Use a Bible doctrine book or Systematic Theology. "Heavy" theological books are available, but so are books that explain Biblical teachings in non-technical language. You don't have to be a seminarian to understand theology.
7. How was Jesus tempted in the wilderness? Look at a standard work on the Life of Christ, which also explains much of our Lord's teachings.
8. Trace Abraham's journey (in Genesis) using a Bible Atlas, a good resource to learn the geography of the Holy Land.
9. What was John Wycliffe's contribution to Christianity? Learn about I in a Church History text. Do you ever wonder what has happened in the Christianity over the past 2000 years? How much do you really know about the people God used to build up His Kingdom, and the major movements and events that have shaped the Church?
10. Using a Bible Handbook or Old Testament Introduction/Survey book, explain the function of the *kinsman-redeemer* in the Book of Ruth.

11. Check the cross references (links to other/similar passages) for Acts 4:12—what do you learn? (note: all Study Bibles contain cross-references). The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible!
12. What are the Dead Sea Scrolls and why are they important? Use a Biblical Archeology text. You don't have to be Indiana Jones to learn about archeology. You'll be fascinated to learn about all that has been uncovered.
13. What exactly is Intelligent Design? Employ a Creation Science text.
14. Using a Bible Commentary, find out what Jesus meant in John 10:30 when He declared, "*I and the Father are one.*" For most commentaries, you don't need to know the original language to benefit from the scholarship.
15. What are the four main views regarding Christ's second coming? Check a book on prophecy/eschatology. Good Christians differ on what they think may happen.
16. How can you explain the story of Joseph in Egypt to kids? Creative teacher training materials abound.
17. What proof do we have for Christ's resurrection? Examine a book on Apologetics (the defense of the faith). The integrity of Scripture can be upheld, despite skeptics who try to challenge our faith
18. Examine the different Gospel writers' account of Jesus' miracle of the feeding of the five thousand (on one page) in a *Harmony of the Gospels*.
19. Why did Jesus meet with Nicodemus on a rooftop, of all places? Consult a book on *Manners & customs* of Bible times.

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