



# FREE BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Use this helpful guide to **Dig Deeper** in your devotional time

## Where do I start?

Introduction Materials/Study Bibles should always be your starting point.

Introductory materials help you with cross-references and general themes for Bible books. Study Bibles help you with the interpretation portion of the process.

## What's the process?

1. OBSERVATION
2. INTERPRETATION
3. APPLICATION

Bible Dictionaries also help with the interpretation phase. They help you understand key words and terms in passages. When you come across a phrase, name, or word that you want to understand better, use a Bible Dictionary to help you do that.

Finally, commentaries are your last resort after you've done your own investigation. That's when you enter into conversation with scholars and commentators who can give you insight into the meaning of the text for application.

Check out the following resources. Bookmark them on your web browser so you can come back and refer to them as needed.





# FREE BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

\*we suggest you use these resources in the order they're listed\*

## INTRODUCTION MATERIALS / STUDY BIBLES



### [ESV Introductions - Study Resources \(blueletterbible.org\)](https://blueletterbible.org)

This resource provides a high level overview of every book of the Bible. It gives you general information about the book as a whole, may provide an outline of how the book is laid out, and lets you know the identity of the author of the book (where applicable).



### [Parallel Passages in New Testament Quoted from Old Testament](#)

This resource is a treasure trove of Old Testament allusions in the New Testament. Most of the time you see quotations in the New Testament, it's a reference to an Old Testament text. It's a good idea to go back and read the Old Testament text alluded to for some clues. This resource helps you do that easily.



### [Dictionary of Bible Themes](#)

The Bible is full of themes. It's not always clear what those themes are for each book. This resource helps you to identify some of the major themes in the Bible and could be helpful in determining the meaning of any particular text you're looking at.



### [Reformation Study Bible](#)

A good verse-by-verse study Bible. As with any Study Bible, its purpose is to give you context (historical, cultural, and theological) for the passage. I'd suggest 3 this as a good starting point if you don't have your own study Bible. Read it alongside your text and glean from it.



## BIBLE DICTIONARIES / ENCYCLOPEDIAS



### [Easton's Bible Dictionary](#)

Bible Dictionaries are good for looking up information that you might not know. For example, if you're looking for a location in the Bible, you'll likely find it in a Bible Dictionary. Easton's is an older one, but still good people's names and geographical locations.



### [Smith's Bible Dictionary](#)

Smith's is another older Bible Dictionary, but you can use it for the same purpose (i.e. finding the meanings of names of people, places, and things).



### [Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words](#)

Vine's is one of my favorite free resources. It goes a little bit deeper than Easton's and Smith's and gives you some meanings for words in their original languages. It's also keyed to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (for those of you familiar with that).



### [Cities and Towns Named in the New Testament](#)

Have you ever wanted a one-stop resource for all the cities and towns found in the New Testament? Well, here it is. Whenever you run across a city name in 4 Scripture you can go to a Bible Dictionary and to this resource and get all the information you'll need to investigate the location.



## COMMENTARIES



### IVP New Testament Commentary Series

IVP's commentary series is meant for laypeople and uses plain language to explain passages. It's a great resource that won't go over your head. Remember though, commentaries are your last resort. Do your legwork first. Investigate before you start to have "conversations" with commentary authors.



### Matthew Henry's Commentary

Matthew Henry's commentary is a tried and true resource. It can get a little wordy at times and uses a lot of old English, but it has been used by Bible students and pastors for decades.



### David Guzik Commentary

Guzik is a pastor and his comments on scripture read like a pastors'. This is where you can get some practical information about the passage (answering the so what question). Again, don't jump straight to this material. Instead use it to confirm some of your personal observations.

## WORD STUDIES & OTHER RESOURCES



### Step Bible

If you are brave enough, this resource is a great free one for word studies. It dives into the original Greek and Hebrew language and the interface is pretty user friendly. Don't get too bogged down in this right now though.



### Harmony of the Gospels

The Harmony of the Gospels is a resource you should bookmark. It lays out every story in the Gospels side-by-side where it appears in each Gospel. It's a great resource when you want to read the same story in different Gospels to see if you can discover any differences.



## OTHER RESOURCES (CONT'D)



### Precept Austin

This is a catch-all resource. It puts together a whole bunch of resources for each book of the Bible. It has so much content that it can be overwhelming. I would suggest starting with the other resources above before making your way to this one.

A large, stylized lightbulb graphic in a golden-yellow color, positioned to the right of the text "MAKE IT MAKE SENSE".

**MAKE IT  
MAKE  
SENSE**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**f** **You Tube** | **6:30 PM**  
SaintMarkLR | live.smark.org | CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

**SAINTMARK**  
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