

Tips for Studying

By Matthew Day

Recently, I have been finding a lot of things that help me in my studies, so I want to share some of the things I've learned so maybe you can use them. I hope you will find some of these tips helpful. If you have some study tips that you would like to share, send me an email and I will consider putting them in the next issue.

Set aside time

Set aside a time each day to pray and read scripture. For me, that time has to be immediately after I wake up, otherwise I will forget.

Outline

Outlining books as I read through them has helped me to see the bigger picture and not get lost in all the detail (very helpful for books like Leviticus). I usually use the section headers and paragraph breaks to help me organize my outline.

Summarize

I started reading through Paul's letters a few days ago and realized that outlining wasn't going to be enough. Paul is constantly hinting and referring back to himself and you can't see that in an outline. So, I started to write a summary for Romans (the letter that I am on). Writing a summary forces me to rewrite Paul's arguments in my own words. It helps me to see all the moves Paul makes in his argument.

Copying Scripture

In Deuteronomy 17:18, the king of Israel is commanded to write a copy of Torah for himself. Copying scripture helps you notice each word. It is also helpful in memorizing scripture.

Start a study group

Starting a study group has at least three advantages that I can think of. (1) It gives you incentive to read and study. (2) It allows you to hear the opinions of others. Other people may have ideas that you haven't thought of, and maybe they might have answers to some of your questions. (3) It allows you to express your own opinions. I have found that you don't really know what you believe until you are forced to explain it.

Ask Questions

Simply ask yourself a question and seek out the answer. Ask other people for their opinions (I sometimes like to play devil's advocate when I do this), and then do some research on your own.

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