

REMNANT
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REMNANT SIMULATED BIBLE COLLEGE

How to Study the Bible



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REMNANT SIMULATED BIBLE COLLEGE

How to Study the Bible

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REMNANT SIMULATED BIBLE COLLEGE

How to Study the Bible

Dedication

To every seeker of truth,
may the Word come alive to you.

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Introduction

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

Before we ever become a student of the Word, we must first submit to it. Bible study is not about proving a point. It is about discovering God's intent.

There are two ways to approach Scripture:

1. One produces revelation
2. The other produces misinterpretation based on information, because not all facts are the truth

This training will teach you the difference.

The Purpose of Remnant Simulated Bible College

Remnant Simulated Bible College exists to raise disciplined, discerning, and devoted followers of Christ who do not merely read Scripture but rightly interpret, apply, and live it. This is not academic for the sake of intellect. This is spiritual formation for the sake of transformation.

Our goal is to train believers to:

- Accurately handle the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Develop spiritual discernment through proper interpretation
- Grow in revelation, not just information
- Become self-feeding disciples, not spiritually dependent consumers
- Reproduce what they have learned in others

This is a training ground for those who are serious about Scripture, obedience, and representing God correctly.

The Purpose of This Training Document

This e-book serves as a foundational guide to studying the Bible with clarity, accuracy, and conviction. It is designed to establish a framework that protects you from error and positions you for revelation.

By the end of this training, you will:

- Understand how to approach Scripture with the right posture
- Learn practical methods for interpreting biblical text
- Recognize common errors that lead to misinterpretation
- Gain tools to study independently with confidence
- Be equipped to teach, disciple, and lead others in truth

This is not just about learning Scripture.
This is about being shaped by it.

Because at Remnant7, we do not just study the Word. **We become it in practice.**

Lesson 1:
THE SOAP METHOD

The SOAP Method is a simple but powerful way to study and apply the Bible. It helps you move from just *reading Scripture to understanding and living it out*. Here's how it works:

STEP 1:

S — Scripture

Write out the verse or passage that stands out to you.

- This slows you down.
- It helps you notice details you might normally skip.

Example:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...” (Proverbs 3:5)

STEP 2:

O — Observation

Ask: *What is this Scripture saying?*

Look for:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is the audience?
- What is happening?
- Are there repeated words or themes?

Example Observation:

This verse is telling me not to rely on my own thinking but to fully trust God.

STEP 3:

A — Application

Ask: *How does this apply to my life right now?* This is where the Bible becomes personal.

Example Application:

I need to stop trying to control every situation and trust God with decisions I've been stressing about.

STEP 4:

P — Prayer

Respond to God based on what you just learned. Make it honest. Make it real.

Example Prayer:

“Lord, help me trust You more than my own thoughts. Teach me to surrender control and walk in Your wisdom.”

Why SOAP Works for Beginners

- It moves you from information to transformation

- It builds consistency in your time with God
- It trains you to hear God clearly through His Word

The SOAP method is great for teaching readers how to sit with Scripture, but exegesis teaches you how to stand on it. One invites you into the habit of reading; the other demands the discipline of understanding. You began by asking, “What does this say to me?” and that question has value, but growth requires a better one: “What did God mean when He said this?” Because the danger is not in reading the Word, but in reshaping it around our feelings instead of being formed by its truth. The SOAP method builds a connection, but the exegetical process builds clarity. It slows you down, anchors you in context, and trains you to handle the Word with precision, not assumption. This is where devotion matures into discernment. Where inspiration gives way to interpretation. And where you stop borrowing meaning from the moment and start uncovering the text's intention.

Lesson 2:

THE EXEGETICAL PROCESS

“What did the text mean then?” Exegesis means to **DRAW OUT OF THE TEXT** what is already there, not to insert your opinion into it.

Step-by-Step Framework

STEP 1. Observation: What does the text say?

Slow down. Read carefully. Look for:

- Repeated words or phrases
- Who is speaking
- Who is being addressed
- Commands, warnings, promises

Ask: What are the details in what I am reading?

STEP 2. Context: What surrounds the text?

You must understand:

- The verses before and after
- The chapter
- The entire e-book

A text without context becomes a pretext.

STEP 3. Historical Background: What was happening?

Study: The culture. The audience. The situation.

The Bible was written for us, but not originally to us.

STEP 4. Literary Genre:

What kind of writing am I reading—and why does it matter?

Before you evaluate the interpretation of the Scripture, you must first identify what type of writing you're holding in your hands. The 66 books of the Bible are not a single style of book; they are a library. And every genre carries its own rules, rhythms, and expectations.

Why this matters:

Because misreading the genre leads to misapplying the truth. If you read poetry like a police report, you'll take metaphors literally. If you read history like a parable, you'll miss real events God performed. If you read prophecy like a casual letter, you'll overlook warning, symbolism, and divine timing.

**The right interpretation begins
with the right classification.**

The Major Biblical Genres

1. Narrative (Story/Historical Accounts)

Purpose: To *tell what happened*—real people, real places, real events.

How to read it:

Look for God's activity in human history, not just moral lessons.

Narrative shows what God did, not always what should be copied.

Examples:

- Genesis (creation, Abraham, Joseph)
- Exodus (deliverance from Egypt)
- Numbers
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 & 2 Samuel
- 1 & 2 Kings
- 1 & 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Acts (New Testament narrative of the early church)

2. Law (Instruction / Commands)

Purpose: To establish God's standards, covenant expectations, and moral order.

How to read it:

Understand the covenant context (especially Old Covenant vs. New Covenant). Not every law applies the same way today, but every law reveals God's nature.

Examples:

- Exodus (parts)
- Leviticus
- Numbers (parts)
- Deuteronomy

3. Poetry & Wisdom Literature

Purpose: To express truth through emotion, imagery, and reflection.

How to read it:

Expect symbolism, parallelism, and metaphors. These books are meant to be *felt* as much as understood.

Examples:

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon (Song of Songs)

4. Prophecy (Major & Minor Prophets)

Purpose: To deliver God's message—often warning, correction, and future hope.

How to read it:

Recognize layers:

- Immediate message to Israel/Judah
- Future implications
- Messianic fulfillment

Also expect symbolism, imagery, and poetic language.

Major Prophets:

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

Minor Prophets:

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah

- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

5. Gospels (Biographical-Theological Narratives)

Purpose: To present the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

How to read it:

These are not just biographies; they are theological portraits. Each writer emphasizes different aspects of Jesus.

Examples:

- Matthew (Jesus as King)
- Mark (Jesus as Servant)
- Luke (Jesus as Savior for all)
- John (Jesus as the Son of God)

6. Parables (Teaching Stories Within Narrative)

Purpose: To reveal truth through simple stories with deeper spiritual meaning.

How to read it:

Don't overanalyze every detail—focus on the central truth or main point.

Examples (found within the Gospels):

- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)
- The Sower (Matthew 13)

7. Epistles (Letters to Churches & Individuals)

Purpose: To provide instruction, correction, doctrine, and encouragement.

How to read it:

These are situational documents, written to specific people dealing with real issues. Understand the audience and context.

Pauline Epistles:

- Romans
- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Galatians

- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- 1 & 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

General Epistles:

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 & 2 Peter
- 1, 2 & 3 John
- Jude

8. Apocalyptic Literature (Symbolic End-Time Revelation)

Purpose: To reveal spiritual realities, cosmic conflict, and God's ultimate victory.

How to read it:

Highly symbolic and visionary. Do not force everything into literal form—interpret through Old Testament imagery and prophetic patterns.

Examples:

- Daniel (chapters 7–12)
- Revelation

The Bottom Line... You don't read:

Poetry like Law

Narrative like a Parable

Prophecy like a Casual Letter

Apocalyptic Visions like a Newspaper

Why?

Because God chose different genres on purpose. Each one reveals Him in a unique way:

- Narrative shows His actions
- Law reveals His standards
- Poetry expresses His heart
- Prophecy declares His voice
- Gospels reveal His Son
- Epistles instruct His church
- Apocalyptic unveils His final victory

If you misread the genre, you risk misrepresenting God. But when you read it correctly, you don't just gain information, you gain a revelation that points to Christ.

Lesson 3

Sitz im Leben: The Life Behind the Lines

According to the German language, the term *Sitz im Leben* is derived from biblical scholarship and literally means **“the life-setting behind the text.”** It points to the reality that Scripture was written into real-life situations—moments shaped by culture, conflict, questions, and community. The Bible is not a random collection of spiritual sayings. It is a series of divine responses to human circumstances.

To study Scripture accurately, you must learn to step into that world before trying to apply it to your own.

This is where many readers miss it. They approach the text seeking immediate meaning without first asking what was happening when it was written. But *Sitz im Leben* trains you to slow down and ask better questions. What situation prompted this writing? What problem is being addressed? What cultural developments shaped how this message would have been heard?

These questions are not academic; they are essential. Until you understand what is happening around the text, you will never fully understand what is happening within it.

Consider the letter to the Corinthians. Without context, it can feel like a series of unrelated corrections and instructions. But when you

step into its life-setting, clarity emerges. This was a church navigating division, with believers aligning themselves with personalities rather than with unity in Christ. It was a community that tolerated immorality and should have been confronted. And it was a gathering marked by disorder in worship, where spiritual expression had become chaotic rather than edifying. When you see the situation behind the letter, the message becomes focused, intentional, and necessary.

This is the goal of *Sitz im Leben*. It teaches you to recognize that every passage has a purpose tied to a moment. It forces you to ask not just what is being said, but why it needed to be said in the first place.

As you grow in this discipline, you begin to read Scripture differently. A Psalm is no longer just poetic language—it becomes a window into a moment of worship, distress, or repentance. A Gospel passage is no longer just a story; it becomes a real encounter shaped by cultural expectations and human need. A Pauline letter is no longer just an instruction; it becomes a response to specific challenges within a real community of believers.

This is how understanding deepens. To train yourself in this, practice intentionally. When you approach any passage, pause before interpreting and ask: What is the situation behind this text? Who is

involved? What is happening that makes this message necessary? This exercise shifts you from surface reading to structured understanding.

And as you do this consistently, something begins to change. You start to see patterns. You begin to recognize that Scripture is not disconnected—it is responsive. Every instruction, every correction, every encouragement is tied to a real-life moment that required divine insight.

That is the Power of *Sitz im Leben*.

It does not complicate Scripture. It clarifies it. It anchors your understanding and protects you from misreading the text through modern assumptions alone. It teaches you to respect the original moment so that you can rightly understand the eternal message.

And once you learn to read Scripture this way, you will never approach it casually again.

In theological training, *Sitz im Leben* is introduced **after foundational exposure to Scripture but during the early stages of formal interpretation**—specifically as part of **exegetical development**.

It is not the first step, and it is not the final step. It is a **critical middle movement**.

Now the student is no longer just reading, they are **investigating**. This is where *Sitz im Leben* becomes essential, because it helps answer:

- What was happening when this was written?
- Why did this need to be said?
- What is the historical and cultural backdrop?

In other words, *Sitz im Leben* is a **core tool inside exegesis**.

1. **Hermeneutics (Bridging Then to Now)**

After understanding the original setting, the student now asks:

- What does this mean today?

2. **Application (Transformation / Discipleship)**

- How do I live this out?

Why It Comes Here

Sitz im Leben cannot come too early.

If introduced before basic engagement, it can:

- Overwhelm new believers

- Turn Scripture into an academic exercise instead of a spiritual one
- But if introduced too late, students will:
- Build habits of misinterpretation
- Apply Scripture without understanding it

That's why it belongs **at the turning point**—when a reader moves from **devotional readings to disciplined study**. *Sitz im Leben* is where you stop asking only, “What does this mean to me?” And start asking, “What was happening when God said this?”

Sitz im Leben: The Necessary Ingredients

A thorough *Sitz im Leben* is not built on assumptions; it is built on carefully identifying the key elements behind the text. These are the essential “ingredients” you must gather:

- **Audience:** Who is being addressed?
- **Author:** Who is writing and from what perspective?
- **Historical Setting:** When is this happening in history?
- **Geographical Location:** Where is this taking place?
- **Cultural Context:** What customs, norms, and practices are influencing this moment?
- **Situation:** What is happening in real time?

- **Problem or Tension:** What issue, conflict, or need is being addressed?
- **Purpose:** Why is this being written or spoken?
- **Trigger Event:** What caused this message to be necessary now?
- **Emotional Tone:** What is the mood or atmosphere (correction, encouragement, urgency)?
- **Literary Context:** What comes before and after this passage?
- **Covenantal Context:** Where does this fall in God's redemptive timeline?

The Remnant Framework for Studying Scripture

As you grow in your understanding of the Word, your study must move with intention. What begins as simple engagement must develop into structured, disciplined, and faithful handling of Scripture. This is the framework that anchors that growth:

- **SOAP:** Engage the text
- **Exegesis:** Understand the text
- **Sitz im Leben:** Understand the setting
- **Hermeneutics:** Apply the text
- **Biblical Theology:** See the story
- **Systematic Theology:** Organize the truth

- **Apologetics:** Defend the truth
- **Discipleship:** Live the truth

Each layer builds on the one before it. Nothing is wasted. Everything is developed.

Lesson 4

HERMENEUTICS: BRIDGING THEN TO NOW

Hermeneutics is the bridge that keeps you from misusing what you’ve just learned. **If exegesis answers the question, “*What did this mean then?*” hermeneutics answers the equally critical question, “*How does this faithfully apply now?*”**

The Importance of Hermeneutics

Without that bridge, people either remain stuck in history, admiring the text without living it—or they rush into application—using the text without understanding it. Hermeneutics rejects both extremes. It honors the distance between the ancient world and our present, while insisting that God’s Word is still alive, still speaking, and still relevant.

To bridge *then to now*, you must recognize that Scripture was written **for us**, but not always written **to us**. It had a real audience, in a real culture, facing real circumstances. Their language, customs, struggles, and worldview shaped how they heard the message. Hermeneutics teaches you to respect that world first, before trying to import the text into your own. Because if you skip that step, you don’t bring the Bible into your life—you pull it out of its context and force it to fit your preferences.

A clear example of how this mistake happens is found in how people often use Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.” This verse is powerful—but it is also one of the most commonly misapplied passages in Scripture.

When people skip the “*then*” and jump straight to the “*now*,” they often read this as a **personal, immediate promise of success, comfort, and prosperity** in their individual lives. It becomes a motivational statement. A life slogan. A guarantee that everything will work out quickly and favorably.

But that’s not what was happening *then*. God was speaking to the nation of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah during a time of **exile in Babylon**. These were people who had been removed from their homeland because of disobedience. And just a few verses earlier, God tells them something that changes the entire meaning: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you...” (Jeremiah 29:10) Seventy years.

That means the original audience would not even live to see the fulfillment of that promise. This was not an **immediate personal breakthrough**—it was a **long-term, covenantal promise to a people**, unfolding over generations.

Now this is where hermeneutics matters. If you ignore the original audience, context, and timeline, you might apply this verse as:

- “God is about to fix everything in my life right now”
- “I won’t experience long seasons of hardship”
- “Prosperity is guaranteed in the way I define it”

But when you properly bridge *then to now*, the application becomes more accurate and powerful:

- God is faithful to His promises—even when fulfillment takes time
- His plans are not always immediate, but they are intentional
- Hope is rooted in God’s character, not our circumstances

So, instead of forcing the text to fit your preferences, you allow the **principle beneath the promise** to shape your perspective. That’s the danger of skipping the bridge. You don’t just misunderstand a verse; you can build an entire expectation about God that He never actually promised. And false expectations lead to misaligned faith and faulty foundations.

But once the original meaning is clear, hermeneutics begins its true work. It asks: *What is the timeless principle beneath this passage?* Not just the

surface action, but the enduring truth. For example, a command about specific cultural practices may not transfer directly, but the principle underneath—holiness, justice, faithfulness, obedience—always does. Hermeneutics helps you separate **cultural expression** from **eternal truth**.

This is where transformation happens. The goal is not to recreate the ancient world but to carry the **unchanging nature of God’s truth** into a changing world. The same God who spoke then is still speaking now—but He is not contradicting Himself or adjusting His truth to fit modern comfort. Hermeneutics ensures that your application is not creative—it is **consistent**.

Where “Harmony” Comes In (Conceptually)

Even though the words are unrelated linguistically, they *connect spiritually and practically*. Because when hermeneutics is done correctly, it produces **harmony** in three key ways:

1. Harmony Within Scripture

Proper interpretation ensures that one passage doesn’t contradict another. Instead of forcing isolated meanings, hermeneutics helps you see:

- the unity of Scripture
- the consistency of God’s voice

It keeps the Bible from becoming fragmented.

2. Harmony Between Then and Now

Hermeneutics is literally the bridge.

It takes:

- what was said **then** and brings it into
- faithful application **now**

Without it, there's tension. With it, there's alignment.

3. Harmony Between Truth and Application

Bad interpretation creates confusion or imbalance:

- Truth without context: harsh or misleading
- Application without truth: shallow or emotional

Hermeneutics brings both into agreement. It makes sure what you *live* matches what God *said*.

Constructing the Bridge

Bridging from then to now also requires discernment about genre. You don't apply poetry the way you apply law. You don't interpret parables as historical narratives. You don't read prophecy as if it were plain instruction. Hermeneutics teaches you to read each type of writing on its own terms so that your application remains faithful to its design.

At its core, hermeneutics protects both **truth** and **transformation**. It guards the integrity of the text while guiding the believer's life. It refuses shallow readings and rushed conclusions. It slows you down long enough to ask, ***“Am I applying this correctly, or just conveniently?”***

This is the bridge. Not a shortcut. Not a leap. A careful, intentional crossing from what God said **then** to what He is saying **now**—without losing His voice in the process.

**Just because it meant something
then does not mean you can apply
it however you want now.**

Hermeneutics answers:

What does this mean for me today?

Three Questions to Teach:

1. What is the timeless principle?
2. How does it apply today?
3. Does it align with all Scripture?

Lesson 5

***Eisegesis:* From Extraction to Insertion**

ENGAGE, UNDERSTAND, APPLY

SOAP teaches you how to **engage** Scripture. **Exegesis** teaches you how to **understand** Scripture. **Hermeneutics** teaches you how to **apply** Scripture.

But there is another approach, one that feels similar, sounds spiritual, and often goes unnoticed, yet it quietly works against all three. **It is called eisegesis.**

The Dangers of Eisegesis

Where SOAP invites you into the text, exegesis draws meaning out of the text, and hermeneutics carries that meaning into your life, eisegesis reverses the flow entirely. It pushes your own ideas, experiences, and assumptions **into** the text. Instead of discovering what God has said, you begin shaping Scripture around what you already think, feel, or want.

And this is where the danger lies. Because eisegesis rarely announces itself. It doesn't feel rebellious. It often feels *personal*. Even meaningful. You read a verse, it resonates with your current situation, and before long, you've assigned it a meaning that fits your moment, but not necessarily God's intention. The question subtly shifts from, ***"What did God mean?"*** to, ***"How does this support what I already believe?"***

At that point, Scripture is no longer leading—you are. This is why, in **REMNANT SIMULATED BIBLE COLLEGE: *Learning How to Study the Bible*** is not just about gaining knowledge. It is about developing discipline. Because if exegesis reveals truth and hermeneutics applies it faithfully, **eisegesis distorts truth**. It ignores context. It bypasses the original audience. It replaces divine authority with personal preference.

Do Not Get Sucked Into Personality, Prosperity, Popular Opinion, or Performance-Based Faith

While it may inspire you for a moment, it cannot sustain transformation, because it is no longer anchored in truth. So, this is not just a technical distinction. It is a spiritual one.

Every time you open the Word, you are choosing a posture: Will you come to the text to **extract what God has placed there...** Or will you come to **insert what you want to find**?

Because one leads to clarity. The other leads to confusion. And Satan is the author of confusion.

Growing Beyond the Basics

This guide has given you the tools to study Scripture faithfully. It has

trained your posture, sharpened your process, and anchored your approach in truth. But this is not the end, it is the beginning.

Because as you mature in your study of the Word, you will encounter deeper and more sophisticated approaches that stretch your thinking and refine your understanding even further.

Freely Given, Freely Shared

All content on Remnant7 is free of charge. Our mission is simple: To go and make disciples. We aim to help you grow, deepen your knowledge of the Word, strengthen your prayer life, and foster meaningful engagement within the Christian community—without pressure, pretense, or barriers.

As it is written in The Bible, “Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8). We believe that what God has given should not be withheld but shared generously for the benefit of others.

If God places it on your heart to support the continued spread of the gospel through this work, we invite you to click the link at the bottom of this page to contribute your time, talents, or treasures.

However, above all, we encourage your continued growth and renewed connection with Jesus Christ. Your spiritual development will always matter more than any financial support.

www.Remnant7.com

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WHAT IF STUDYING THE BIBLE WAS NEVER
MEANT TO BE CONFUSING—BUT **TRANSFORMATIVE**?

Remnant Simulated Bible College: How to Study the Bible is a practical and powerful guide designed to help you move beyond **surface-level reading** into true understanding. This book equips you with foundational tools to **rightly divide the Word of Truth**—helping you discern context, uncover meaning, and apply Scripture with clarity and confidence.

Whether you are new to the Bible or have studied it for years, this resource will challenge you to shift from information to **revelation**—where Scripture is no longer just read, but **experienced**.

THIS IS MORE THAN A METHOD.
THIS IS A CALL TO DEEPER DISCIPLESHIP.



And best of all, this resource is **offered freely online**,
so that nothing stands between you
and **the Word of God**.


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