

HOW TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE
Part II

I. Three basic steps for reading and understanding the Bible.

A. **Pray** and ask God to help. Luke 8:15 & Psalm 51:6

1. Pray for hearts that are prepared to hear the _____.
2. Pray for _____ and understanding.

B. **Read** for understanding and obedience. Luke 8:15-16, 18a & 21 compare to James 1:17

1. The purpose of the seed is to bear _____.
2. The purpose of the light is to _____.
3. The purpose of the Gospel is to change our lives. If there is no change in our lives, than our faith is _____.
4. Faith without _____ is dead. What good is your faith if it is useless? If there is no change and no transformation...James says your faith is _____.
5. We read the Word of God to understand it and to _____ it.

C. **Praise** God for what He teaches you. Ask for help and wisdom to obey.

II. Let's take a closer look at **reading for understanding**. Let's review what we discussed last week.

Reading the Bible is not a mystery! We are to follow normal, literal rules of interpretation; just as if we were reading a _____. Words have _____. Read them for what they mean. God wants us to know Him and understand what He says. We also take into consideration the context, what comes _____ and what comes after, as well as the genre. God uses various genre for communicating His message...such as narrative, _____, law, prophecy, wisdom books, history, letters and apocalyptic literature. We must also remember that the Bible is a one book made up of sixty-six books. Though, God used human authors to write down His word, it has _____ author, God! The Bible is the best commentary on itself. It will _____ contradict itself. Read other passages that might help in your understanding.

When reading for understanding, we simply want to know “what does it say?”

Five W's Let's review Luke 14:1-6

1. Who
2. What
3. When
4. Where
5. Why

List any other questions you might have as you read the passage.

Are there any other passages where Jesus teaches on the Sabbath that might help us better understand this passage? Luke 6:6-11 & Mark 2:27-28 What insights do we gain?

1. The purpose of the Sabbath is to do _____ ; to save life and to show compassion.
2. The Sabbath was made for _____, not man for the Sabbath.
3. Clearly deeds of mercy were in order for the Sabbath.
4. They made special rules to help animals, how could they complain about Jesus' works of _____?

III. Let's take a closer look at **reading for obedience**. Luke 14:1-6

1. What do I learn about God?
2. What do I learn about man?
3. Is there anything that I should or should not do?
4. What practical steps can I take to obey God's word?
5. Who can I tell what I have learned?

Memory verse: Psalm 139:23-24 Let's read this passage every day and see if we can memorize it.

LORD search our hearts and show us where we fall short. Give us courage to be honest with what we see. If there is any hurtful way in us, lead us in the way that pleases you...the way which leads to everlasting life. Thank you.