

How to Study the Bible for Yourself

Topical Bible Study

1. **Select a Topic for Study** – The topic you select should be one in which you have a spiritual interest or need information. Additionally, be careful not to choose a topic that is too large.

SELF DECEPTION

2. **List Related Topics**. This list should include other verbal forms of your topic, synonyms, related phrases, ideas, and narratives (stories).

A. List all words related to your topic

Deceive & variations

Tempt & Variations

Lie & Variations

B. List all similar topics and ideas related to your topic

C. List all stories related to your topic

Lucifer -

Uzziah – Offering incense

Pharisee & Publican

3. **Find Bible References to Your Topic**. Using a concordance, topical bible, treasury of scripture knowledge, find all your references. Be careful to collect only verses that relate to your topic.

4. **Write an Observation or a Statement about Each Passage**. Be certain that your comments accurately reflect the context of the verses. Your comments might be a short summary of the key point(s) of the verse. Include questions about issues you don't understand. These questions might be answered as you continue your study.

1. Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked

2. Jeremiah 37:9 – Do not deceive yourself saying the Chaldeans will go away

3. Jeremiah 49:16 – The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you who dwell in clefts...

4. Obediah 1:3 – Pride of your heart has deceived you, you who dwell in the clefts of rock

5. 1 Corinthians 3:18 – Let no one deceive himself. If anyone seem wise, let him become a fool

6. Gal 6:13 – If a man think he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself

7. James 1:13,14 – Each one is tempted when he is enticed and carried away by his own lust

8. James 1:22 – If anyone is a hearer and not a doer of the word, he deceives his own heart

9. James 1:26 – If anyone does not bridle his own tongue, he deceives his own heart

10. 1 John 1:8 – If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

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5. **Regroup Scripture References Under Appropriate Subtopics.** As your study unfolds you will find that certain themes will emerge. Group these themes together, and organize them together in an outline form that flows logically.

1. Jer. 17:9
2. Jam 1:13,14
3. Jer 49:16
4. Ob 1:3
5. 1 Cor 3:18
6. Gal 6:13
7. James 1:22
8. James 1:26
9. Jer 37:9
10. 1 John 1:8
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6. **Summarize Your Discoveries.** After you have studied all your passages and completed your outline, write a complete summary at the bottom of your outline. The summary helps condense everything you've learned together in a few concise paragraphs.

- A. Self-deception is an issue of the heart. (Jer. 17:9, James 1:13,14)
- B. Pride is the root of self-deception. (Jer 49:16, Ob 1:3, 1 Cor. 3:18, Gal. 6:13)
- C. Self-deception happens when we hear the word, but don't do the word (Jam 1:22)
- D. Self-deception happens when we don't bridle our tongue (mind) (Jam 1:26, Jer 37:9)
- E. Self-deception happens when truth is not in us -we don't see our sinfulness (1 Jn 1:8)

7. **Write applications.** No bible study is complete until the lessons are applied in a personal way. List ways you can apply your topical study to your relationship with God, to your life, to your relationships with others, and to the church.

- A. How is my heart? - Psalms 139:23, Psalms 51:10
- B. Is there pride in my heart?
- C. Is there something that God has convicted me on, but I'm ignoring?
- D. My words have an effect on me? Am I telling myself falsehoods?
- E. Has truth penetrated every barrier in my life? When it does I will see my sinfulness