

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

TITLE: 40 DAYS IN THE WORD

SESSION SIX: PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION

**MEMORY VERSE: YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH.
PSALM 119:105 (NIV)**

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION

“If you continue in my word you are my disciples indeed. And shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

John 8:31-32 (MKJV)

HOW TO CONTINUE IN THE WORD

- Make a _____.

Decide that you are going to commit to this habit.

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)

- Make a _____.

Announce your intentions, give your family or friends permission to check up on you.

- Make a _____.

Don't allow any exceptions to knock you off track.

- _____.

Get a spiritual partner for support and encouragement.

Two are better than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GNB)

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION SIX (cont.)

- _____ on God.

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit of a daily quiet time.

For the spirit God has given us...fills us with power, love, and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7 (GNB)

God has something to say to you every day through his Word, and he wants to hear what you have to say every day in prayer. Don't deny God or yourself the pleasure and the privilege of friendship with him.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- _____ and the _____ are necessary for proper interpretation.

The Bible is a spiritual book that can only be truly understood by people who are spiritually alive through Jesus Christ.

No one knows the thoughts of God except the spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us ... The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned ... But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (NIV)

In other words, to make sense of what the Bible says and means, you have to have a personal relationship with the author.

"But when he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth ... He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."

John 16:13-14 (NIV)

- The _____ is its own best _____.

Scripture best explains and interprets scripture. By looking up other verses on the same topic, you will get a much bigger and clearer picture of what God has to say about it.

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION SIX (cont.)

- Read the _____ with the _____ in mind, and read the _____ with the _____ in mind.

- Always interpret _____ passages in the light of _____ passages.

Since the Bible is its own best commentary, you need to look at the full council of God in Scripture to get a clear understanding of unclear passages.

If it is true, as some claim, that the dead are not raised to life, why are those people being baptized for the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:29 (TEV)

- Don't form a _____ based solely on an _____.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

You cannot turn the story of when Jesus prayed into a command or a doctrine about when to have your quiet time.

- Don't interpret _____ based on _____; instead, interpret _____ based on _____.

Exegesis = to draw out of the text the truth that God put there.

Eisegesis = to read into the text some idea or theory that you want to see there.

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION SIX (cont.)

When you study the Bible, you're not trying to get God to agree with your ideas about something, or to convince him that your position is right. You have to come with an open heart and invite God to conform you to his will by showing you the truth that is in his Word. Remember, he's God and you're not.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

As a group, review the six methods of biblical meditation using this week's **Memory Verse**:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

- **Pronounce It!** Which word stands out most prominently to you?

- **Picture It!** What do the phrases "lamp to my feet" and "light for my path" look like to you?

- **Probe It!** Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions from Session Three.

- **Paraphrase It!** Put it into your own words. Can you think of other metaphors to use?

- **Personalize It!** Insert your name in place of the first-person pronouns; then rewrite it again, as though God were saying it directly to you.

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION SIX (cont.)

- **Pray It!** Take a moment and pray this verse back to God, thanking him for the direction, wisdom, strength, and comfort you find in his Word.
