

STUDYING THE BIBLE THEMATIC METHOD

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The unfolding of your words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130

- Use a concordance or online resource to gather references.
- Limit the number of questions! On a big topic, or one that's new to you, a single question will do.
- Look up variations of the key word (e.g. endure/s/d/ance/ing) and perhaps synonyms (other words that have a similar meaning, e.g. steadfast)
- Don't forget to pray before you start!

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THE THEMATIC METHOD

1. CHOOSE YOUR THEME
 What do you want to find out, explore or prove?

2. COLLECT YOUR VERSES
 Which key words are essential? Try to keep it to one or two, but include derivatives.

3. COMPILE YOUR QUESTIONS
 2 or 3 is best. Write each at the top of a separate column/sheet of paper /page in a text document.

4. CROSS-EXAMINE THE REFERENCES
 Write the answers under each of the headings.

5. CONCLUSIONS
 Summarise the answers you've found in a simple statement - aim for something you can explain in 1-2 minutes.

6. COMPOSE AN APPLICATION
 Make it: personal · practical · possible · provable. How does this help me become more like Jesus?

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