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LIFE TO THE FULL (Booklet format)File Size: 479 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File LIFE TO THE FULL (Single pg. format) File Size: 2433 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File This post may contain affiliate links. Please see my disclosure policy for details. In this article we will learn about and how to do a Topical Bible Study. This easy guide will take you through the steps needed to do a topical study of your choice. Great for private study or small group. So, grab your Bible and a notebook and lets get started There are numerous ways and methods we can study the Bible. And hands down one of my favorite ways is by doing a topical Bible study. This type of study method can really be beneficial because you get to see the whole picture on any given topic. But many people choose not to study topically because they feel like it will be too hard or they are under equipped. I am going to share with you today that anyone can do a topical study no matter what stage you are at in learning Gods Word! But before we begin lets answer what is a topical Bible study? A topical study is when we take any given topic or subject within scripture and begin to delve into its meaning, function, and application to our lives. We can use a very broad topic in the Bible like joy, or a narrow or specific topic like frogs. Another example is doing a topical study on trees. This is a very broad topic within scripture and a great way to see an overall theme and understanding of trees. But you can also take the topic of trees and narrow it even more and focus on just palm trees or oaks. One of the amazing things about doing a topical study is that it begins to reveal deep symbolic meaning on different subjects. This is when we can learn and discover about types, shadows, and patterns within scripture. Here is a little section of frequently asked questions on topical Bible studies. Are you ready for the fun stuff? That's right we are going to go over 7 steps that will help you complete the study. But before we go through each step I want to clarify that this is specifically how I go about doing a topical Bible study. I find being a little creative by using mind mapping helps me to gather information and learn. And I hope this also helps you! I will have images below to show as examples. Our study of the Bible is only beneficial insofar as it increases our love for the God it proclaims.Jen Wilkin The Bible has 1000s of different topics you can pick and choose from. I highly recommend praying and asking God to highlight a topic for you to study. Once you got your topic and I encourage you to spend some time with Jesus. Ask Him to help you through this study and to bring your understanding and revelation. If you are in need some ideas on topics. You can check out my free Bible topic ideas below! Once you have selected your topic its time to grab your tools. I usually use a mix of online tools and book resources. I have two posts on this topic if you are interested in reading more on the topic. Free Online Bible ToolsImportant Bible Tools To Use I do recommend using Bible dictionaries, and concordance for topical studies. If you want to dive in deeper you can use commentaries or read articles on the topic. Another tool you will need is a place to write down your notes. You can either to this with paper and pen or you can do it digitally. This is 100% up to you. Everyone has a different style and what works for them. If you are not sure try both out and see what you like. You can find relevant verses and references a few ways: Use your Bible and look for cross references Use a Bible Dictionary Use an online Bible search engine Find topical Bible verses in online articles All these methods are great, and will work. Method 3 and 4 are much faster and easier. I do find that method 4 of finding topical Bible verses in articles works better than just a regular Bible search or posts from big Bible websites. These articles are usually better quality in that they stay true to the topic. This is why I have a whole section on my site on topical Bible verses. I wanted a collection of articles that would help Christians study different topics. Now, that you have your references jot them down or print them out. Read through each verse. IMPORTANT NOTE I have two things to note in this section. The first one is always take a special note on the very first verse or passage that mentions your topic. This is called the law of first mention. I like what David Jeremiah has to say about it Those who study the Bible in a serious way sometimes refer to the Law of First Mention. Its not so much a law, really, as a common principle in the Scriptures. If you select an important biblical wordsay,worshipyoull find that its first biblical appearance sets the tone for all the richness of meaning that will emerge. Through the Word we go on to find many new understandings and many variations on the theme, but the first cut is the deepest, the first Mention gives us the essential picture. (My Hearts Desire) The second important thing I want to touch on is large topics. Depending on the topic you pick their might have 100s of verses. If that the case you can go about this a couple of ways. You can just select 10-20 verses and do a smaller topical study. Or you make this topical study one that is done a few sittings. Another option is you could a themed study. This different than a topic study as you would focus on a key theme within a section of verses or book. This might sound confusing so here is an example: Bible Topic: Spiritual Warfare Theme Study: Spiritual Warfarefrom a Warriors Perspective in Ephesians Spiritual warfare is throughout the Old and New testament and would be a huge topical study. In the book of Ephesians has a big spiritual warfare theme. Instead of doing a topical study you could do a themed study. This doesnt work with all topics, but a lot do. When doing a topical study you can take notes as you read your reference verses, but I am huge fan of doing a mind map. If you are not familiar with what a mind map here is some info: A Mind Map is a diagram for representing tasks, words, concepts, or items linked to and arranged around a central concept or subject using a non-linear graphical layout that allows the user to build an intuitive framework around a central concept. A Mind Map can turn a long list of monotonous information into a colorful, memorable and highly organized diagram that works in line with your brains natural way of doing things. (source) What you want to do is grab your notebook and in the very center you want to place your topic. From there you build out what you learn. This must each easier to understand by seeing examples. I have created a little graphic to show you but I also want to share some real life examples. So, below I will provide three different topical studies I have done with mind mapping. Just to give you an idea. Every topic is different and so each mind map will be unique. This is what makes it so fun and creative. Topical Study on the Armor of God Topical Study on The Prayers In the Garden of Gethsemane Topical Study on Signet Rings in the Bible I like to add a little creativity and color to my mind maps. You can do this as well or you can keep it super simple and clean. Do what you feel comfortable with. If you dont like the idea of doing a mind map you can try out different forms of taking notes. I have a specific template in my Bible Study Planner for Topical Bible Studies. Here is a snapshot of the first page of this template. Topical Bible Study Template Some great ones would be the Cornell study notes, or charting. These note taking methods also work for You can learn about these methods and more here. While working through the verses and mind map, this is a good time to start asking questions. A simple way you can do this is my using 5 Ws and H, who, what, when, where, why and how. Not all these will work on certain topics, but it will help you to think out of the box. Here is an example of questions you can ask about a topic. Bible Topic: Spiritual Warfare Theme Study: Spiritual Warfarefrom a Warriors Perspective in Ephesians Spiritual Warfare Who spoke about spiritual fruit in the Bible?What is spiritual fruit?Who can grow spiritual fruit?When can someone experience spiritual fruit?How can discern spiritual fruit?How does spiritual fruit manifest in someones life?Where can I read about spiritual fruit?Why is fruit used as an indicator of spiritual life? How do I grow spiritual fruit? As these answers come to you write them down in your mind map or notes. If you havent cracked open you dictionaries or concordance yetthen do so. Start looking up the Hebrew and Greek words for your topic. You can easily to do this on Bible Blue Light by clicking on the Strongs concordance option. Check a couple Bible dictionaries and see what they say on the topic as well. If there are verses that confuse you or want to go deeper you can then proceed to read a couple commentaries. *When using Strongs Concordance you will need to use the King James version. As you go through step 4-6 keep fill out your mind map. Jot down everything that jumps out to you or that you feel is important. Once you feel like your study is done try to summarize what you have learned. Find keys thing that you can apply to your personal life. And thats it! You have completed a topical Bible study! Now, that you know how to do a topical Bible study you may still be stuck on which topic to pick. The Bible is filled with different topics which makes it exciting and fun! But at the same time it can be daunting. My first recommendation is always go with something that the Lord is highlighting in your life already. Has He spoken something to you recently? For example I was in pray the other day about areas I feel defeated in and I heard the Lord clearly say to me, that His arm is not too short that He can and will make a way for. I am familiar with some of the passages in scripture that speak about the arm of the Lord, but it has put a hunger and curiosity to study this topic. This is one way I pick topics, the other are things that interest me or I feel is important for my spiritual growth. My second recommendation for getting topical Bible study ideas is to look through a list! I have created a list of 100 Bible topics. You can download that list below by signing up for my newsletter. I encourage you to print it out and pray over what topics you should start studying. I mentioned earlier I have a collection of topical Bible verses. You can check all of them out here: TOPICAL BIBLE VERSE COLLECTION. But I thought it would be nice to share the top ten most popular posts below. I hope you find them helpful in your study of Gods Word. Researching and studying by topic can be an extremely fruitful way to learn Gods Word and dig deeper. And I hope my post has helped you learn how you can easily do one privately or even take these steps and do one in a small group setting. If you would like to leave me a comment you can do that below! I would love to hear from you and what you studying in the Bible.Melissa is a passionate minister, speaker and an ongoing learner of the Bible. She has been involved in church and vocational ministry for over 18 years. And is the founder of Think About Such Things. She has the heart to equip the saints by helping them get into the Word of God and fall more in love with Jesus. She also enjoys family, cooking, and reading.She has spoken in churches in California, Oregon, Texas, and Mexico and has been featured in Guidepost Magazine and All Recipes Magazine. Read More Share Tweet Email Most adult and teen Christians who have had experience in Small Group Bible Studies will say they grew the most in their relationship with God through their Small Group Bible Study experience with other Christians.Topical or books of the Bible Study Lessonsprovide opportunity for the Holy Spirit to teach, challenge, encourage, convince and convict us in our relationships with Christ and one another.Life Groupour small group Bible study lessons provide Christians the opportunity to live out the Christian life in community... in connection with God, other Christians and the world around us God calls our "neighbors". 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This easy guide will take you through the steps needed to do a topical study of your choice. Great for private study or small group. So, grab your Bible and a notebook and lets get started There are numerous ways and methods we can study the Bible. And hands down one of my favorite ways is by doing a topical Bible study. This type of study method can really be beneficial because you get to see the whole picture on any given topic. But many people choose not to study topically because they feel like it will be too hard or they are under equipped. I am going to share with you today that anyone can do a topical study no matter what stage you are at in learning Gods Word! But before we begin lets answer what is a topical Bible study? A topical study is when we take any given topic or subject within scripture and begin to delve into its meaning, function, and application to our lives. We can use a very broad topic in the Bible like joy, or a narrow or specific topic like frogs. 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If there are verses that confuse you or want to go deeper you can then proceed to read a couple commentaries. *When using Strongs Concordance you will need to use the King James version. As you go through step 4-6 keep fill out your mind map. Jot down everything that jumps out to you or that you feel is important. Once you feel like your study is done try to summarize what you have learned. Find keys thing that you can apply to your personal life. And thats it! You have completed a topical Bible study! Now, that you know how to do a topical Bible study you may still be stuck on which topic to pick. The Bible is filled with different topics which makes it exciting and fun! But at the same time it can be daunting. My first recommendation is always go with something that the Lord is highlighting in your life already. Has He spoken something to you recently? 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Researching and studying by topic can be an extremely fruitful way to learn Gods Word and dig deeper. And I hope my post has helped you learn how you can easily do one privately or even take these steps and do one in a small group setting. If you would like to leave me a comment you can do that below! I would love to hear from you and what you studying in the Bible.Melissa is a passionate minister, speaker and an ongoing learner of the Bible. She has been involved in church and vocational ministry for over 18 years. And is the founder of Think About Such Things. She has the heart to equip the saints by helping them get into the Word of God and fall more in love with Jesus. She also enjoys family, cooking, and reading.She has spoken in churches in California, Oregon, Texas, and Mexico and has been featured in Guidepost Magazine and All Recipes Magazine. Read More Share Tweet Email I didnt have a clue as to what it was called or how to do it, but when I was 19 years old I did my firsttopical Bible study. I had met a young man that I was interested in and wanted to know what the Bible had to say regarding his situation. If the Bible condoned his circumstances, then I would continue seeing him. Do you ever wonder what the Bible says about your circumstances or a decision you need to make? Or maybe you just want to know more about Gods faithfulness, or some other subject. That is where Topical Bible Studies come in. I want to take you through how I do this kind of Bible study step by step. Why Topical Bible Study Is Important There are many methods to study the Bible. All are important if we want to have a complete understanding of what the Bible teaches. Topical studies are part of that process and may be the next step beyond simple Bible reading. The subjects that we need to know about are scattered throughout the Bible. Therefore, unless we have read all 66 books of the Bible and taken notes on the particular subject we want to know about, we could easily develop a biased opinion about it. Furthermore, it is important to interpret Scripture with Scripture, meaning a verse in one part of the Bible helps us understand better what a verse in another part of the Bible means. Together they give us a complete and balanced interpretation of different topics. Topical Bible Study Template Doing a topical Bible study requires looking at 10-20 different relevant verses and related words to understand a particular topic. As I began doing more topical Bible studies, I realized I needed a tool or template to help me keep the information organized until I had completed my individual study. I want to share that template with you to make your time in Gods word productive and spiritually profitable. You will need to print a double-sided sheet for each verse or passage about your chosen subject. This Bible study template looks almost as nice in black and white as it does in color, so if colored ink is a concern, change your printer settings to black and white or grayscale. The template is a free gift from the Creators Classroom, and no email is required. It also includes a completed example from my study of Philippians 4:13, a Bible verse that is often used out of context by many people. This type of study helped me see the true meaning of this verse with the use of several free resources found online. Topical Bible Study Worksheet just type in 0 (zero) when it asks you for a fair price. But we also accept donations to keep products free for those who cant afford them. How To Do A Topical Bible Study There are several steps in doing a topical Bible study. They include: Having the right Bible Study tools Setting aside some time each day Deciding on a topic you want to study Digging into Gods word Just 10 years ago in order to do a topical Bible study, you would have needed to purchase a couple of different translations of the Bible, an exhaustive concordance, a Bible dictionary, and possibly a topical Bible. Now all you need is your own personal Bible, a pen and paper, and a bit of technology. When it comes to Bible study, technology is our friend. Nowadays there are many online tools and topical Bible study apps that make our learning easy. Almost everything we could need can be found on the internet. Even better is the fact that most of them are free. These are the online tools that I like to use: The Parallel Bible You can view 2 translations at a time of the same passage The Blue Letter Bible you can get this topical Bible study app for your phone Open Bible you can type in any topic and it will give you a list of Bible verses on that subject in the ESV (English Standard Version). Other good reference materials are Navas Topical Bible, The John MacArthur Study Bible, Bible dictionaries, and any Bible concordance. But truthfully, you can get by with the free resources found on the internet. 2. Time- How much do you need? Typically, a topical study of the Bible will take about 20-30 minutes per day. Focus on one verse or passage each day. Meditate on your findings as you study your next verse or passage. 3. Choosing a topic The sky is the limit when it comes to choosing Biblical topics to study. Do you have an upcoming decision for which you need Gods direction? Are you having trouble with negative emotions such as fear, anxiety, bitterness, or insecurity? Or maybe you want to know more about the attributes of God. Maybe you need the Bibles perspective on how to be a good parent. If you are not sure what you want to study, here are some topical Bible study ideas. This article from my friends at Kingdom Bloggers has an excellentlist of topics that you can download. One or more should spark your interest and would be a good starting point. 4. Doing the topical Bible study Are you ready to begin? Great. It will help if you print a copy of the Topical Bible Study Template above, but it isnt 100% necessary After you have chosen your topic, the first step in doing a topical study is to go to the Open Bible Website and type in your topic. This will give you a collection of verses to study. You can then choose 10-20 verses that resonate with you. Open Bible Website Read the verse(s) in your own personal Bible as well as in a couple of other translations. If you use the Parallel Bible Website, you can choose from many different translations. For the kind of study we are doing, a word-by-word translation such as the NAS (New American Standard Bible) or ESV (English Standard Version) are the best to use.Parallel Bible Website Write out your verse(s). Circle any key words that stand out or that you want to know more about. Learn the context of the verse. Who wrote it? Who was it written to? What were the circumstances when it was written? Most Bibles have this information at the beginning of each book. Continue exploring the context by looking at the verses above and below. Do they tell you more about what this verse is about? If so circle words that stand out to you. Step 4 Find the original meaning of the words you circled using the Blue Letter Bible You are now going to do some word studies. This is where technology gets exciting. You no longer be a seminary student or professor to do this step. The Blue Letter Bibleshas some great features. The initial screen allows you to choose your Scripture reference, as well as the Bible translation that you want to use. Blue Letter Bible Landing Page I chose Philippians 4:13, which is the first verse pictured below. When you hover your cursor over tools to the left (red arrow), you will get a drop-down box. You want to select interlinear (yellow arrow). Philippians 4:13 at the top You will now find your verse broken down by single words or phrases. The phrase I can do (red arrow) is followed by the assigned Strongs number (yellow arrow). You want to select the Strongs number. At this point, you will see a lot of information, but what you are looking for is the Greek (or Hebrew) meaning of the word or phrase in the original language. Scroll down to a section that reads Strongs Definitions. In this example, you see that the word comes from G2479- and that is the definition you are looking for. Select that number. Record your findings in your journal or Template. I list just a few of the definitions if they are all very similar. When you consider the meanings of all the words you chose, along with the context, you will gain new understandings of what your Bible verse is really talking about. Many people think that Philippians 4:13 means that they can be successful at whatever they want or choose to do. However, this verse is talking about something different. It is about being content in any situation you find yourself in. It is important to understand the meaning of particular words in the original language. The Blue Letter Bible helps you do that. Even in reading the Bible, we can expect spiritual warfare. Satan wants us to interpret Scripture in erroneous ways. It is our personal responsibility to use Scripture correctly. Step 5 Draw conclusions and make applications This is our final step because studying the Bible is of little value unless we make personal applications from what we read. This is where spiritual growth takes place. Scripture was given to us for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16), which means that it is to help us become the people God created us to be. To draw conclusions or make applications, first, we need to know if what we studied says anything about God. This helps us get to know Him better. Asking this question increases our knowledge of God. Second, we need to know if we say anything about ourselves or mankind in general. These observations will help us make personal applications. Finally, we need to ask what God is wanting us to know personally. Does He give us any warnings? Is He asking us to do something? This is the whole purpose of Bible Study, change in us. It is important to make a note of these connections. It is good Biblical stewardship. Now that you have completed your study on one verse, repeat steps 2 through 5 for the next verse or passage. By the time you have completed 10 to 20 verses, you will have a good understanding of what the Bible says about your given topic. Final thoughts Topical Bible Study is part of a well-rounded Christian life and is an excellent way to gain a solid foundation on the issues that matter most. When we are struggling with negative emotions, it can help redirect our thoughts leading to morejoy in the journey. If we have important decisions to make, topical Bible study can give us direction and confidence that we are headed the right way. An untiring study of the word of God can also help us get to know God better and strengthen our relationship with Him. What topic do you want to study? We would love to know what subjects are important to you. Would you leave a comment below so we can better serve this community? I trust that you will try this approach with an open mind and heart. Your soul will be blessed while you are learning new things to enrich your Bible study time. You might also like to read: Bible reading for beginners Best Bible verses to memorize for beginners ALL13 LessonsTeaching NotesandStudent Handouts BWC - All Lessons + HandoutsFile Size: 280 kbFile Type: docxDownload File bwc_all_lessons_handoutsFile Size: 2036 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File

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