

# STUDYING SCRIPTURE FOR BIBLE STUDY WRITERS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO  
READING, RESEARCHING,  
AND WRITING WITH  
CONFIDENCE

BY REV. DR. PATRICE  
GERIDEAU



# Welcome

## Hello Bible Study Writer!

Studying Scripture for the purpose of writing or leading others is both a privilege and a responsibility.

This guide offers a simple, faithful method to help you approach God's Word with clarity and care. It is not about mastering the Bible in your own strength, but about learning how to listen well, study carefully, and respond faithfully.

Before you write a Bible study, you are first invited to be shaped by the Word yourself.

As you walk through this process, remember:

- You are not creating truth.
- You are learning to recognize, understand, and carry forward what God has already said.
- Take your time. Stay grounded in Scripture. And trust the Holy Spirit to guide you as you study and write.

In Christ,

Patrice

## Disclaimer

This guide offers a simple method to help you study Scripture with clarity and care. It is not the only way to study the Bible, but it is a faithful approach that has served me well in both study and teaching.

Always return to Scripture as your foundation and rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you learn and grow. When needed, seek wisdom from trusted pastors and Bible teachers.

# Prayer for the Journey

Lord,

Thank You for the gift of Your Word.

Thank You that You have spoken clearly and faithfully.

As these women come to study Scripture, I ask that You would meet them with Your presence.

Help them to come with humility and attention.

Quiet their assumptions. Steady their thoughts. Open their hearts.

Teach them to see what is truly there in the text, not just what they expect to find.

Give them wisdom as they observe, patience as they study, and discernment as they seek understanding.

Shape them through Your Word before they ever try to share it with others.

Let what they write be grounded in truth, guided by Your Spirit, and useful for those who read it.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

# Preparing to Study

Before you begin working through this method, take a moment to prepare your heart and your posture.

Studying Scripture is not just an intellectual exercise—it is an act of listening.

You are coming to God's Word not simply to gather information, but to understand what He has said and to be shaped by it.

This method is designed to help you move slowly and faithfully:

- Beginning with honest awareness of what you bring to the text
- Paying close attention to what the text actually says
- Strengthening your understanding through careful research
- Returning to apply the truth in a way that is faithful and clear

You do not need to rush this process.

- Take your time with each step.
- Read slowly.
- Pray often.
- Write things down as you go.

**As you begin, remember:**

Your goal is not to master the text, but to be formed by it – so that what you write helps others see and understand God's Word clearly.

# Study the World in FRONT of the Text

## Start with yourself before God and the text.

This is where you begin—with yourself before God and His Word.

The goal of this step is to read slowly, notice what stands out, and become aware of what you are bringing into the text. You are not trying to interpret everything yet. You are simply paying attention.

## Questions to Consider

- What stands out to me as I read this passage?
- What words, phrases, or moments catch my attention?
- What feels confusing, surprising, or important?
- What emotions or reactions does this passage stir in me?
- Am I drawn to this passage—or do I feel resistant to it? Why?
- What experiences, knowledge, or assumptions might I be bringing into this passage?
- What do I already think I know about this text?
- Where might I need to slow down and be more open?
- What might I need to bring before God before I move forward in studying this passage?
- Any additional question(s) the Holy Spirit asks.

# Study the World OF the Text

## Seek to understand what the text says.

In this step, your focus is on the passage itself.

The goal is to carefully observe what is happening in the text—its words, structure, people, and movement. You are asking, “What does this passage actually say?”

This step grounds your study in Scripture, helping you see the text clearly before turning to outside resources.

## Questions to Consider

- What is happening in this passage?
- How does the passage begin, develop, and end?
- Are there repeated words or key ideas?
- How are the parts of the passage connected?
- What words or phrases do I not understand?
- Who are the main people in this passage?
- What is each person doing?
- If this is a story:
  - What are the main scenes?
  - How does the story move forward?
- Is there someone in the passage I naturally relate to? Why?
- What kind of writing is this (story, teaching, poetry, etc.)?
- How do the passages before and after this one help me understand it better?
- Where is God in this passage?
- What is God doing, saying, or revealing?
- What stands out as a warning, correction, or encouragement?
- Where do I see hope or good news in this passage?
- What is the main message of this passage for its original audience?
- Any additional question(s) the Holy Spirit asks.

# Study the World BEHIND the Text

## **Seek to understand the background and context.**

In this step, you deepen your understanding through study and research.

The goal is to better understand the historical setting, cultural details, and broader biblical context of the passage. This helps you see the text more fully and accurately.

This step strengthens your interpretation, ensuring that what you understand and eventually write is rooted in the meaning of the text.

## **Questions to Consider**

- What do I learn by reading this passage in different Bible translations?
- Are there important differences between translations that I should pay attention to?
- What historical or cultural details might help me understand this passage better?
- What was life like for the people in this passage?
- Are there other places in the Bible that connect to this passage?
- Are there locations, customs, or practices I need to understand more clearly?
- What questions do I need to research to better understand this passage?
- What do trusted Bible teachers and resources say about this passage?
- How does the larger message of the Bible help clarify this passage?
- Any additional question(s) the Holy Spirit asks.

# Return the World in FRONT of the Text

## **Seek to move from study to faithful application.**

Before you begin writing, take time to slow down again.

You have gathered observations, done your research, and worked to understand the passage faithfully. Now, give that work space to settle.

Sit with what you've learned for a day or so, if possible.

Let the truth move from your notes into your heart.

## **During this time:**

- Pray over what you've studied
- Reflect on what stands out most clearly
- Jot down ways you see the Word coming alive in your own life

This step helps ensure that what you write flows from a place of understanding and response—not just information.

## **Questions to Consider**

- How does the truth of this passage apply to me, in light of its original meaning?
- How does the truth of this passage apply to believers today, without changing its original meaning?
- How does the truth of this passage apply to my readers, in the context of this study, without changing its original meaning?
- Any additional question(s) the Holy Spirit asks.

## **Why This Step Matters**

- This is where your study becomes a message.
- You are not changing the meaning of the text.
- You are carefully carrying its truth forward.
- And because you have taken time to let the Word shape you first, you are now better prepared to help others receive it.

# Closing Blessing and Prayer

## **Bible Study Writer,**

May you be a woman who approaches God's Word with reverence and care.

May you study with humility, write with clarity, and teach with faithfulness.

May the Word of God shape your heart before it ever flows from your pen.

And may those who read what you write be drawn not to you, but to Him.

## **Lord,**

Thank You for those You are calling to study and share Your Word.

Strengthen them as they learn.

Give them clarity as they write.

Guard them from confusion and lead them into truth.

Form their hearts as they open Scripture.

Give them courage to be faithful and patience to grow.

And may everything they write point clearly to You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

# Recommended Resources for Studying Scripture

These are simple, trusted tools to support your study. You do not need all of them—start with one or two and grow over time. Choose resources that align with the kind of teaching you and your readers already trust.

Different resources often emphasize different aspects of Scripture, so use them with discernment, always grounding your study in God's Word. When in doubt, seek guidance from a trusted pastor or Bible teacher.

## Core Study Tools

- **Bible Hub** - Parallel translations, original language tools, and commentaries
- **Blue Letter Bible** - Lexicons, interlinear tools, and study resources
- **BibleGateway** - A searchable, multi-translation online Bible
- **BibleProject** - Videos and study guides that explain biblical themes and books
- **RightNow Media** - A library of Bible-based video teaching
- **Logos Bible Study Software** - A more advanced tool for deeper study
- **Enduring Word Commentary** - A clear and accessible online commentary
- **New Lens Biblical Study (Kristi McLelland)** - Teaching that highlights cultural and historical context

## Additional Resources

These may be helpful as you grow and want to explore certain themes more deeply:

- New Interpreter's Bible Commentary
- Women's Bible Commentary
- Global Bible Commentary

# **A Note about the Recommended Resources**

These resources can often be accessed through Logos Bible Software or purchased through retailers such as Amazon, directly from publishers, or through academic and textbook suppliers.

## **How to Use These Resources**

These tools are meant to support your study, not replace it.

Use them to:

- Understand historical and cultural background
- Learn about places, customs, and people
- See how trusted teachers explain a passage
- Return to them after you have spent time observing the text on your own.

## **Final Reminder**

Always begin with Scripture. Let the Word of God be your foundation. These resources are tools to support your understanding—not to lead it.

## About the Author

This guide flows from my training in biblical studies and my years of studying, writing, and teaching Scripture in both academic and ministry settings.

More than anything, my desire is to help women come to God's Word with openness, humility, and confidence—trusting that He will meet them as they study and shape them through what they read.

If you would like additional resources to support your writing and study, you can visit my website for more guidance and tools.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Patrice Gerideau

[patricegerideau.com](http://patricegerideau.com)

