

English Transcript
How to Study the Bible
Lesson 8 – Reflect Upon and Apply Your Learnings

Welcome back to the final lesson, Lesson 8 of our How to Study the Bible Course. In this lesson you will receive instructions for your final learning activity as you reflect upon and apply your learnings from your personal study of 1 John.

The results of your study are to be used: first for personal growth and enjoyment, and second to be shared with others through teaching, preaching, encouragement, etc.

Take time to review your outline and slowly ponder your learnings, point by point, until these wonderful truths sink into your soul, and live in you, and become part of your life.

This entire study process can be modified based on the time you have to invest. For example. Some may skip the verse-by-verse study and may just look up key words in verses and then classify topical findings for the entire book.

Simply reading the book 6-10 times, recording what you can remember, and then creating the section divisions and charting the book, will provide an excellent depth of understanding and learning.

This is the step in the study process to think about how you will apply what you have learned from your study of 1 John.

Here are 7 questions to ask yourself as you look to apply God's Word or put what you have studied into practice in your life.

Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?
Is there a SIN to avoid/confess?
Is there a PROMISE to claim?
Is there a PRAYER to repeat?
Is there a COMMAND to obey?
Is there a CONDITION to meet?
Is there a VERSE to memorize?

Learning activity #6 is the final activity for this course. After reviewing the results from Learning activities 1 through 5, take time to reflect on your learnings and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal relevant and meaningful applications or next steps for you to put into practice in your life.

You may record your application thoughts on pages 38-39 of your workbook. My notes page 51. If you have never thought about how to apply your learnings from a book of the Bible, I included an example of applications from 1 John from Got Questions (www.GotQuestions.org).

Reviewing this may give you ideas on developing your personal applications from your study of 1 John.

1 John applications from Got Questions

The Book of 1 John is a book of love and joy. It explains the fellowship we have with others and with Jesus Christ. It differentiates between happiness, which is temporary and fleeting, and true joy, which 1 John tells us how to achieve. If we take the words written by John and we apply them to our daily lives, the true love, commitment, fellowship, and joy we long for will be ours.

The apostle John knew Christ well. He is telling us that we can all have that close, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. We have the witness of men who had direct and personal contact with Him. The Gospel writers present their solidly based testimony on a historical reality. Now, how does that apply to our lives?

It explains to us that Jesus came here as the Son of God to create a union with us based on His grace, mercy, love, and acceptance. So many times, people think Jesus is off in some faraway place and that He doesn't really concern Himself with our daily struggles, issues, and concerns. But John is telling us that Jesus is right here with us in both the simple, mundane parts of our lives and in the complex, soul-wrenching parts as well.

John testifies as a witness of his personal experiences that God became flesh and lived among men. That means Christ came here to live with us and He still lives with us. As He walked the earth alongside John, so does He walk through each and every day with us. We need to apply this truth to our lives and live as if Jesus were standing right next to us every second of the day. If we put this truth into practice, Christ will add holiness to our lives, making us more and more like Him.

Now it's your turn. Reflect, pray and ask God to show you how to put your learnings from 1 John into practice in your life, your marriage and family, your church, etc.

Consider these application questions:

Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?
Is there a SIN to avoid/confess?
Is there a verse to memorize?
Is there a PROMISE to claim?
Is there a PRAYER to repeat?
Is there a COMMAND to obey?
Is there a CONDITION to meet?

You may pause the audio recording now and complete learning activity #6. When you are finished, restart the audio for a brief summary and some closing thoughts and next steps related to this course.

Welcome back! How did you do?

I wish there was a way for me to hear your personal applications from 1 John. Your applications will be different from mine. The key is that whenever we study a passage or even an entire book of the Bible, we must not just pray to understand the meaning (Interpretation) but we must also move toward how our learnings will transform our lives (Application).

Here are some of my applications from 1 John.

- Increased boldness in my witness for Christ based on the doctrinal truths of Jesus and the things I know to be true about our need for salvation and the victory we can have in Christ!
- In John 15:7-8 Jesus said, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” – John 15:7-8

God expects us to bear fruit to His glory. Our first concern should be His will, on earth as it is in heaven. And one way I bring glory to Him is by bearing fruit. By bearing fruit, I mean reproducing after our own kind, producing other Christians. As a result of our lives and witness, people should be coming to Christ. That is the fruitfulness that glorifies God.

- When Jesus called us to follow him, he invited us into this fellowship with him, the Father and all believers. To live in fellowship with Christ means to move through the day in obedience to Him—seeking His will and not my own, loving Him and not the things of this world, spending time with Him in prayer, and reading His Word. It means to seek first the kingdom of God.

Start each day with a commitment to walk in the Light.

Identify my areas of struggle with lust of eyes, lust of flesh and pride of life.

Get back to deeper study of books of the Bible.

Return to more intentional memorization of Scripture.

Develop the discipline of thanksgiving.

Confess sins immediately, end each day with a spiritual review.

Review passages on practical love (1 Cor 13:4-8, John 15:12-13, Romans 12:9-13, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-15, Ephesians 4:1-3, Hebrews 10:24-25).

Review the list of truths about Jesus and the things “we can know” to be true on a regular basis.

- Look to encourage other believers and remind them of these truths and invite them to walk and grow in closer fellowship with the Father, Jesus and each other.
- Confront false teaching in our day with more boldness, directness.
- Identify ways in which Christ is denied in our world today.
- Evaluate biblical teaching based on Scripture.
- Grow in my love toward those within the church as well as those who may not know Jesus yet, especially my neighbors. I need to become more intentional in my own “Jerusalem”.

This is where the hard work begins. Over the coming weeks, identify 2-3 application ideas and put them into practice over the next 2-3 weeks. Some say that it takes 21 days to form a habit. The point is we do not want to have lots of knowledge about what the Bible means without it transforming our life as well. We do not want to have a very large head and tiny feet and hands. Let us be doers of the Word of God. As Jesus said, ‘Blessed are those who hear my words and put them into practice.’

We have come to the end of this course and you have worked through the 7-step process for studying a book of the Bible. I encourage you to go back to Step 3 and **rewrite your Introduction** for 1 John based upon your learnings.

There is a blank Book Chart on page 40 if you would like to **revise your Book Chart** based on your learnings.

Remember the simple three-step process of Observation, Interpretation and Application and the 7-Step process outlined in this course.

1. Select a book to study
2. Master the General Content of the Book
3. Write an Introduction/Overview for the book.
4. Divide the Book into Section and Chart the Book
5. Study each Section Verse-by-Verse
6. Classify the results of your study
7. Reflect upon and Apply Your Learnings

Maybe the most important application step for you will be to ensure that you complete your personal study of 1 John and then look for an opportunity to teach 1 John in your church. You might develop a sermon series or a multi-week Bible Study.

Starting a Monthly Plan to Study the Bible

It is wise to establish a plan for reading the Bible on a daily basis. It is not difficult to read through the entire Bible each year if you read just a few chapters a day. You might also concentrate on the study of one book each month for the next year. You can create your own schedule for completing these studies. Here is a sample plan to get started with a variety of books from the Old and New Testaments. At the end of one year, you would have a deeper understanding of 8-12 books of the Bible. Within 10-12 years you might discipline yourself to study through all 66 books of the Bible.

January: 1 John

February: 2 John and 3 John

March: Joshua

April: Judges

May: Ephesians

June: Philippians

July: 1 Samuel

August: 2 Samuel

September: Luke and Acts

October: Luke and Acts

November: Luke and Acts

December: Ruth

It has been joy to be able to guide you through this course and may God bless you abundantly as you develop a passion for the Word of God as you learn it, love it, and live it!

God bless!