

THIRTY RULES OF BIBLE STUDY

BY

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1. Bible studies are for people looking for Christ, and not for people not looking for Him (Matt. 7.6-8).
2. Bible studies are for bringing people to Christ, and not for driving them away from Him (Prov. 18.19; Matt. 17.24-27; 18.7; Rom. 10.14-15; Eph. 6.4; Titus 3.1-2; 1 Pet. 3.14-16).
3. Bible studies should be used to train Christians and non-Christians to think in spiritual and eternal terms instead of physical and temporal terms (1 Cor. 3.1-3; 2 Cor. 4.16-5.5, 17; Gal. 5.16-26; 2 Pet. 3.8-18; etc.).
4. The fundamental goal of Bible study is for one to discover what one's relationship to God is whether right or wrong, and then use the study to make any necessary corrections (Gen.-Rev.; Acts 8.26-40; 10.34-48; 16.14-15; 25-34; 18.24-28; 19.1-7; 22.12-16; etc.).
5. Bible studies are for Christians to teach all the erring and unfaithful Christians and non-Christians the gospel of Christ, and never the other way around (Gen.-Rev.; Matt. 28.18-20; Mark 16.15-16; Luke 24.45-47; Acts 11.19-26; 26.24-29; Gal. 1.6-7; 3.1; 1 Tim. 4.11-16; Phile. 10-11; 2 Pet. 2; 3.14-18; Jude 4, 8, 10; etc.).
6. As Christ was in the grave three days, three times of inviting one to a Bible study to come out of one's own spiritual grave is usually enough without over-aggressive pressuring one (Jon. 1.17; Matt. 10.11-14; 12.39-40; Acts 13.48-52).
7. When a Bible study is set up, it is preferable to begin it immediately or it can begin later as long as it begins (Mark 1.16-20; Luke 19.1-10; Acts 16.25-34; 18.24-28; etc.).
8. When a Bible study is set up, the scheduled time(s) for it to begin and end should be established right away or it may never be established (Acts 17.32-34; 24.24-27).
9. One should always be on time for scheduled Bible studies (Eccl. 5.4).

10. Bible studies take time and one's baptism must never be rushed if it comes at the expense of not teaching what needs to be taught (Ps. 33.10-11; Matt. 5.19; Acts 20.18-21, 26-27).
11. Bible study requires concentration while distractions inhibit one's ability to teach or learn from the study and should never be allowed (Acts 7; 17.1-9, 13; 21.27-36; 1 Cor. 5; etc.).
12. All Bible studies should begin and end with prayers asking for God's help that His word does not return empty to Him in that the one(s) being studied with are brought to Christ (Gen. 4.26; Isa. 55.6-11; Matt. 6.5-15; Luke 11.1-4, 9-10; John 17; Acts 17.24-28; Rom. 8.28; Eph. 6.18-20; Col. 4.2-4; 1 Thess. 5.16-18; etc.).
13. Christian teachers must maintain control of all Bible studies with all of those they teach or else they will take control of it propagating whatever they may desire (Ex. 32.21-29).
14. Christian teachers should routinely ask those they are teaching if they have any relevant questions, comments, or observations to make in any given Bible study (Gen.-Rev.; Gen. 3.8-19; Matt. 16.13-20; Mark 8.27-30; John 11.17-27; etc.)
15. Christian teachers should seek timely answers to any relevant Bible study questions asked them by their Christian and non-Christian students using all the available resources (Matt. 19.3-12; Mark 10.2-12; Luke 11.1-4; John 3.1-21; 8.1-11; Acts 1.6-8; 2.37-38; etc.).
16. Christian teachers should train their Christian and non-Christian students to eventually learn how to answer their own Bible study questions when circumstances permit it (Ezra 7.10; John 5.39-40; 7.45-53; Acts 17.10-12; 2 Tim. 2.15; etc.).
17. Christian teachers should train non-Christian students how to use their Bibles during their studies like asking them to find and read relevant passages of Scripture (Prov. 22.6; Eph. 6.4, 10-17; Col. 4.16; 1 Thess. 5.27; 1 Tim. 6.20-21; 2 Tim. 3.16-17; Titus 2.1; etc.).
18. Each one using the same version during Bible study makes it easier for Christians to teach and non-Christians to learn (Gen. 11.1-9; John 19.17-22; Acts 2.5-13; 1 Cor. 12-14; etc.).
19. A Christian teacher should routinely ask one if one is confused about anything in their Bible study, and if so clear it up for one (John 3.1-21; 1 Cor. 14.33; 2 Pet. 3.14-16; etc.).

20. Christian teachers should always encourage those they teach to take notes during Bible studies as their notes will help them to remember what they are taught (Ex. 31.18; 32.15-16; Deut. 24.4; John 1.45; 12.48; 20.30-31; 1 Cor. 4.6; 1 John 2.1-2; 5.13; Rev. 1.3; etc.).
21. Christian teachers should use Bible study to help those they teach learn how to confront their own sin problems and take the necessary corrective action (Acts 2.36-38; 16.25-34).
22. For purposes of retention by those being taught, the Christian teacher should start every new Bible study with a concise review of everything covered to date from all prior studies (Gen.-Rev.; Deut.; John 14.16-17, 26; Acts; etc.).
23. At the end of any Bible study, the Christian teacher must concisely summarize everything covered to make it all understandable for those doing the learning (Acts 2; 3; 7; etc.).
24. For purposes of clarification, the Christian teacher should always give the student simple handouts that puts hard-to-understand Bible topics into easy-to-understand illustrations (Gen. & Acts; Ex. & Heb.; Dan. & Rev.; etc.).
25. Depending upon what is being taught, Bible studies can bring about positive or negative reactions from students and Christian teachers should learn and know how to handle them (Matt. 5.3-12; 10.16-20; Mark 12.28-31; 1 Cor. 11.1; Eph. 5.1-2; Phil. 1.27-28; Col. 4.5; 1 Tim. 4.12; 2 Tim. 3.12; Heb. 13.7, 18; 2 Pet. 3.11-12; etc.).
26. In Bible studies, Christian teachers have a responsibility to declare the whole counsel of God but not to play a detective or policeman in one's life unless spiritually necessary (Gen. 4.1-16; 6-8; Josh. 7.16-26; Matt. 7.1-5; Mark 6.14-29; John 8.1-11; Acts 5.1-11; 19.1-7; 20.26-27; Rev. 2-3; etc.).
27. Christian teachers should invite one to attend church before baptism as this acquaints one with what the church is like and prepares one to attend the church faithfully after baptism (Acts-Philem.; 1 Cor. 14.20-25; 1 Tim. 3.14-15; Heb. 10.19-31; Rev. 2-3; etc.).
28. Christian teachers and those they teach must regard the Bible as being the divine authority in the things they study and not the writings of men like Bible footnotes or

commentaries (Eccl. 12.11-12; Isa. 1.18; 2 Tim. 3.16-17; 2 Pet. 1.19-21; Jude 3; Rev. 22.18-19; etc.).

29. A Christian teacher must study with one at least the elementary teachings of the gospel of Christ before baptism and mature teachings after baptism to avoid apostasy (Heb. 6.1-2).
30. A Christian teacher must never baptize one before one is ready because a teacher's main function and priority is teach others and not necessarily baptize others (1 Cor. 1.10-17).

WHAT TO SAY WHEN MEETING PEOPLE KNOCKING DOORS, ETC.

“Hello. My name is _____, and I am from the _____ Church of Christ located at _____. Thus, we are out knocking doors in the local neighborhoods letting people know we have been here since _____, and are trying to spiritually minister to people by inviting them to our weekly Bible studies and worship services. We are non-denominational, worship according to the New Testament pattern of spirit and truth, and teach only what the Bible teaches.

On the flyer you have in your hand, the front tells you a little bit about us including the weekly schedule of our classes and worship services, our location, and the contact information. You and your family are invited to come visit us at any time. Likewise, we are trying to set up home Bible studies to compare notes on the Bible, teach the gospel of Christ, and answer any questions of interest or address any topics of concern to you. Would you folks be interested in a home Bible study? When would it be a favorable time for you and I to get together to start the Bible study?”

Note: Never trespass on someone’s property if there is a “No Trespassing” sign posted. The Bible tells us to not give any offense to those we are reaching out to with the gospel (Matt. 16.24-27). Write down the address, and a flyer will be mailed to them.

Note: If the answers to your questions are “No,” do not argue with the person(s) you are talking to. Say “Thank You,” shake the dust off your feet (Matt. 10.5-15), and go on to the next house or place. Always remember masses of other people are waiting to talk with you.

Note: Never get involved in a doorway Bible study. It is very disorganized and distracting.

Note: Never discuss or argue some aspect of the gospel with a person until you have shared the gospel with them. There is no point arguing some detail before the person has had the chance to hear the entire gospel itself and try to come to an understanding of it.