



WORDALIVE

BIBLE STUDY

SERIES: BLUEPRINT FOR BIBLICAL LITERACY

How to Read and Study the Bible | Senior Pastor James D. Gailliard

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WORD
TABERNACLE

EVERYONE THRIVING

A Personal Word from Pastor G

For 21 years, I've had the profound privilege of opening God's Word with you every Sunday, and Tuesday, watching the Holy Spirit transform lives through Scripture. From our humble beginning with 14 faithful souls to this thriving community of thousands, one constant has remained: **our unwavering commitment to letting God's Word shape both our hearts and our work.**

But here's the truth I must share: too many of God's people are reading the Bible without letting the Bible read them. They consume Scripture like fast food, when God intended it to be a feast. They treat God's Word like a daily devotional snack, when it's meant to be the spiritual protein that builds Kingdom muscles for justice work.

Over these next few weeks, I'm transferring to you the same interpretive tools that have guided my preaching for 25 years, informed my advocacy in the North Carolina General Assembly, and equipped Word Tabernacle for Kingdom impact in Rocky Mount and beyond. These aren't academic exercises—they're practical weapons for spiritual warfare and social transformation.

The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Word lives in you

(1 Corinthians 6:19). **You have everything you need** to feed yourself from Scripture and then feed your community through justice-informed ministry.

Come expectant. Come ready to work. Come prepared to be changed. Because when God's people study God's Word with God's heart, **revival breaks out and systems get shaken.**

Until All Thrive,

Pastor G

The BLUEPRINT Application Framework

Every Scripture passage gives us a blueprint for transformation. Not just head knowledge—life change.

Before diving into the weekly sessions, master this framework. Every passage we study should result in a **BLUEPRINT** for personal and corporate transformation:

B - _____ THE TRUTH

What truth does God want me to embrace?

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” John 17:17

L - _____ SIN BEHIND

What sin do I need to confess and forsake?

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

U - _____ THE COMMAND

What is God calling me to obey?

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

E - _____ THE PROMISE

What promise can I claim from this passage?

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20

NOTES:

P - _____ ABOUT THIS

How should this passage shape my prayer life?

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6

R - _____ THE ERROR

What false teaching or wrong thinking must I abandon?

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” Colossians 2:8

I - _____ THE EXAMPLE

Whose example should I follow?

“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1

N - _____ NEW ATTITUDE

What heart attitude needs to change?

“...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:23-24

T - _____ AND PRAISE GOD

What reasons for worship do I find here?

“...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Remember: The goal isn't to force every passage into all nine categories, but to ask these questions systematically so nothing essential gets missed.

The Foundations of Our Study

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

The Problem We're Solving in this Session

Many Christians feel intimidated by serious Bible study or treat it as academic exercise disconnected from real-world impact. Meanwhile, our communities cry out for believers who can connect ancient wisdom to contemporary action.

1. Introduction

- a. Our _____ of scripture must go beyond scholarship.

2. The Big Picture

- a. The Bible tells one _____ story of God rescuing humanity and restoring creation through Jesus Christ.
- b. God is always the _____.
- c. There are principally five _____ in the Bible.

- i. _____ (**Genesis 1-2**)

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31

God creates a world of justice (*tzedek*), peace (*shalom*), and abundant life for all. This is God's original blueprint - what theologians call the "Kingdom of God" and what we might call "Beloved Community".

- ii. _____ (**Genesis 3-11**)

Notes:

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5:12

Humanity's rebellion against God fractures every relationship—with God, with each other, with creation itself. This isn't just personal sin; it's the birth of systemic oppression, economic exploitation, and racial division.

iii. _____ (Genesis 12 - Malachi)

‘I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ Genesis 12:2-3

God chooses one family (Abraham), then one nation (Israel) to model Kingdom values for all nations. The Old Testament is God's training manual for justice-centered community living.

iv. _____ (Matthew - John)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Jesus embodies everything Israel was called to be: the perfect image of God's justice, mercy, and righteousness. His life, death, and resurrection make God's restoration available to all people.

v. _____ (Acts - Revelation)

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The church becomes God's agent of transformation, carrying the Gospel to every nation and working for justice in every system until Christ returns to complete the restoration.

3. Genre Recognition

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”
2 Timothy 3:16

- a. _____ (Stories)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____
- b. _____ (Emotional Expressions)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____
- c. _____ (Life Skills)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____
- d. _____ (God’s perspectives on justice)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____
- e. _____ (Jesus’ story)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____
- f. _____ (community instruction)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____
- g. _____ (ultimate hope)
 - i. Read for: _____
 - ii. Example: _____

4. Basic Observation Skills

- a. We must become _____ of the Divine.
- b. _____ Necessary Questions
 - i. _____ is involved?
 - ii. _____ is happening?
 - iii. _____ did it occur?
 - iv. _____ is the setting?
 - v. _____ is this included?
 - vi. _____ does this happen?

c. Live Demonstration

- i. Mark 4: 35-41

d. Observation Tools

- i. _____ words
- ii. _____
- iii. _____ details
- iv. _____ in text

e. Discoveries

f. Take Home Exercise: John 4: 1-26

Instructions: Read this passage three times this week. Mark everything you notice. Ask the six questions in every paragraph. Don't worry about 'getting it right' - worry about getting it detailed. Consider colored pens for marking (blue for people, red for places, green for repeated words, orange for questions).

In your home or small group, share one observation that surprised you. This isn't homework; it's worship. Every detail you discover is God

showing you something about His character, His world, and His heart for humanity. Be detectives of the divine.

Structure & Strategy

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Ti 2:15.

5. Getting Beyond Basic Details

a. Structural Analysis (Practice text: Luke 15: 1-32)

- i. _____ (15: 1-2)
- ii. _____ (15: 3-32)
- iii. _____ awareness

b. Advance Observation Techniques

- i. _____ Patterns
- ii. _____ Tracking
- iii. _____ Development
- iv. _____ Elements: What are we NOT being told?

6. The Three Contexts: Text without context is a pretext for whatever we want it to say.

a. _____

i. Who wrote this, to whom, when and why?

b. _____

i. Where does this passage fit into the larger book?

c. _____

i. What would the original audience automatically understand?

7. Liberation Theology Integration

*“He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly.”
Luke 1:52*

From Esau McCaulley’s – “Black Ecclesial Interpretation

- a. Who has the power in the passage?
- b. Who is the marginalized in the text?
- c. What is God’s response to the oppression and injustice?
- d. How does this text speak to contemporary justice issues?
- e. What would faithful obedience look like in our context?

Theological Integration

We read Scripture expecting to find the God who sides with the oppressed because that's who Jesus revealed God to be. We don't read our politics into the Bible, but we let the Bible shape our politics.

Notes:

8. Integration: From Prophecy to Practice

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” James 4:17

a. Applying Blueprint to James 2: 1-13

B _____

L _____

U _____

E _____

P _____

R _____

I _____

N _____

T _____

b. Action Planning Process

i. _____ Transformation

ii. _____ Application

iii. _____ Engagement

iv. _____ Influence

9. Sustainable Bible Study (SOAP)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

#EVERYONE THRIVING

“People Empowering People and Communities in All
Areas of Life to the Glory of God.”

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