

# “How to Know the Bible”

## Fundamentals of the Faith

### ‘13 Lessons to Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus Christ’

by Dr. John MacArthur

### (Lesson Two)

I. Five Ways to Make the Bible Yours

A. \_\_\_\_\_ it – **Romans 10:17** (Luke 11:28; Nehemiah 8:7-8)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ it – **Revelation 1:3** (1 Timothy 4:13)

C. \_\_\_\_\_ it – **Acts 17:11** (Proverbs 2:4)

1. What two traits did the Bereans exhibit as they received the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is that how YOU receive the Word of God?

D. \_\_\_\_\_ it – **Psalms 119:11** (Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Matthew 4:4-10; Psalm 40:8) = Internalizing God's Word in the heart and mind.

E. \_\_\_\_\_ on it – **Psalms 1:1-3** (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:73, 125)

“Meditation is to read with \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ over God's Word; to \_\_\_\_\_ reflect on Scripture with the goal of conforming my \_\_\_\_\_ to God's will.” – John MacArthur

II. Four Steps in the Process of Bible Study

A. Preparation – Always confess sin and always pray before approaching Scripture (1 Peter 2:1-2; Colossians 1:9-10).

B. Observation – What is taking place in the text of Scripture?  
1 John 2:27 – We can understand much by the Holy Spirit!

1. Ask: Who? What? Where? When?
2. Look for: key words, action verbs, people, topics, commands, warnings, repeated words and phrases, comparisons, questions and the answers, anything unusual or unexpected.
3. Take your time, and never give up!

C. Interpretation – What does the Scripture passage mean?

1. There is only \_\_\_\_\_ correct interpretation of any particular passage of Scripture: the author's originally intended meaning.
2. Always use the context – Scripture before and after the verse.
3. Must use other resources to study words, grammar, definitions, titles, names, dates, phrases, historical times, literary genre...such as Bible dictionaries, concordances, Bible handbooks, Bible encyclopedias, Bible commentaries, study Bible footnotes.
4. Use Scripture to study Scripture – use the references in your Bible to cross-reference other appropriate Scripture passages.

D. \_\_\_\_\_ - What effect will this have on my life? (James 1:22)

1. While there is only one correct interpretation of a given passage of Scripture, there are \_\_\_\_\_ applications!
2. The entire goal of Bible study is \_\_\_\_\_! (John 14:15; Isaiah 29:13)
3. A simple tool to help you apply Scripture you have learned:  
**SPECS** – Is there a

\_\_\_\_\_ to forsake?

\_\_\_\_\_ to claim?

\_\_\_\_\_ to follow?

\_\_\_\_\_ to obey?

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid?