

Read

Listening or reading repeatedly to a passage helps provide the flow and context. When you read, you see the big picture and the flow of the authors intent.

Reading helps you see what is coming next, and helps keep what you are studying in its broader context.

Observe

As part of reading, we also begin the process of asking questions, and making notations.

At this point, no commentaries, sermons, articles or podcasts. Underline, circle, draw lines, and cross-reference yourself. Don't cheat here! Don't look at a study bible or find an easy answer. Retention is tied to effort.

Also, underline words that are significant or that you don't understand. Use a different color here. You will come back to these words for definition, other uses of the root, and tenses. You don't need to be a scholar here, just need to know how to ask questions!

Go back through and do your best to ask questions where you cannot explain the meaning. This could be a word, phrase, supposed contradiction or theological concept. Use the same color that you used to underline and circle.

When you feel like you have covered enough that you are getting lost or confused on, stop there. Study that section.

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Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord

- OTHER GOSPEL ACCOUNTS WHERE THIS IS RECORDED?
- THIS HAPPENS AFTER THE STORY OF LAZARUS, BUT JOHN USES THE STORY TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIPS.

with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother

SUCH A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT, MARK 14:9 "WHENEVER GOSPEL PROCLAIMED"

Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he

THEY KNEW JESUS POWER. SURLEY HE WOULD HEAL HIS CLOSE FRIENDS.

whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This

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AFFECTION FOR,
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MAKES SENSE IN CONTEXT
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THE DISCIPLES AS WELL.

illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that

THIS MESSAGE WOULD SHARE THE RECAPSSES OF BOTH THE DISCIPLES AND LAZARUS' FAMILY. JESUS PURPOSE IS WISER TO US. LIKE JOB.

the Son of God may be glorified through it."

IT IS NOT NARCISSISTIC BECAUSE OUR ULTIMATE GOOD IS FOUND IN HIS GLORY.
PS 23 "HIS NAME SHALL"

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when

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he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the

THIS ENSURED THAT LAZARUS WAS TRULY DEAD

place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples,

WHY? TRAVEL TIME?

AFTER TWO DAYS,
BY THIS TIME, THE
DISCIPLES CLEARLY
DIDN'T CONNECT LAZARUS
ILLNESS TO JESUS' PLAN
TO GO BACK.

“Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi,

BACK TOWARD HOSTILITY, NEAR JERUSALEM

the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going

GENERAL REFERENCE
INTENDED TO DESCRIBE
THE PHARISEES + OTHER
RELIGIOUS LEADERS

JESUS HAD ESCAPED, BUT HOSTILITY TOWARD
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there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in

IT SEEMS CLEARLY THAT JESUS
HAD TOLD THEM THAT THEY WERE
LEAVING JERUSALEM BECAUSE OF
THE TENSION. V.39-40

CONTRAST LIGHT AND DARKNESS AGAIN

the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble,

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE TO DEMONSTRATE
A SPIRITUAL REALITY.

because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in

REFERENCE TO JESUS HIMSELF

the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After

CLEARLY A SPIRITUAL PICTURE AS LIGHT IS INTERNAL, NOT EXTERNAL

saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has

- DIRECT RESPONSE TO V. 8.
- IMPORTANCE OF JESUS' TEACHING BEFORE MIRACLE?

NOT JUST JESUS FRIEND, BUT A FRIEND OF THE GROUP.

fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to

JESUS CALLS IT SLEEP SINCE HE KNOWS HOW THE STORY ENDS.

him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus

REASONABLE CONFUSION: JESUS HAD TOLD THEM THIS WOULD NOT LEAD TO DEATH. V. 4

had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking

rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died,

OPEN, CONFIDENT THIS WOULD HAVE SURPRISED THE DISCIPLES.
- JESUS KNEW WITHOUT A REASON
- JESUS TOLD THEM IT WOULDN'T LEAD TO DEATH

15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you

JESUS IS MOTIVATED BY COMPASSION, BUT ALSO TRUST HIS DISCIPLES WOULD BELIEVE IN HIM.
ETERNAL LIFE IS MORE VALUABLE THAN PHYSICAL LIFE

JOHN STATES THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS GOSPEL IS SO PEOPLE MIGHT BELIEVE AND HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

may believe. But let us go to him." 16 So Thomas, called the Twin,

IS THIS SAVING BELIEF OR AN INCREASED FAITH?

- THOMAS IS MENTIONED 7 TIMES IN JOHN IN 4 DIFFERANT SCENES.
- MORE TIME IS GIVEN TO THOMAS IN JOHN THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.
- HE ILLUSTRATES DOUBT AND BELIEF.

said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with

- NOT TO JESUS, BUT SARCASTICALLY IN A SARCASTIC WAY.
- NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM JESUS, AND YET JESUS SHOWS PATIENCE AND MERCY TO THOMAS.

- CONFUSION IN THIS. HE IS SCEPTICAL, AND YET STILL GOES.

- HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THE TONE HERE?

- KEEP FOLLOWING JESUS EVEN WHEN YOU ARE DOUBTING AND WRESTLING.

- LEAD WITH YOUR WILL EVEN WHEN YOUR HEART ISN'T THERE. AFFECTIONS FOLLOW TRUTH.

him.”

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already

been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem,

about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to

Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So

Study

At this point we begin using commentaries. Not just to read and move on, but to find the answers to the specific questions we asked. If you come across an answer to a question that you didn't ask, let it serve as a reminder that there were things left on the table during the observation process.

Different color pen, now looking for answers to your questions. You will find that certain commentaries are stronger than others when it comes to difficult passages. Some will only share an answer, others will give the different views and perspectives. Take the time to check the cross references, and see if that was something that you noticed in your observations as well.

Sometimes, a good study bible will help if you are looking for some quick clarity on a cross referenced passage that is outside the book you are studying and don't have a commentary for that book.

When you write down your findings from study, try and reword the idea or concept yourself. This protects you from plagiarizing, and at the same time, forces you to know it well enough to explain it your own way.

In another color, go back to the words you underlined for definitions and word study. Logos has an incredible tool to help you study and understand Greek and Hebrew in a simple way. You can also look for uses, frequency and other translations definitions. You can also use a bible website and change the translation to see how other translators used the word.

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of

- IN JOHN'S TIMING, JESUS IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO THE CROSS.
- MINISTRY IS NOW ABOUT SECLUSION AND DISCIPLES, NOT PUBLIC.

- COIN MIRACLE.
- HEIGHT OF JESUS POWER OVER DEATH ITSELF.

- THUS BETHANY WAS ONLY 2 MILES FROM JERUSALEM.

- NOT THE SAME "BETHANY" IN JN. 1:28

Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord

- LK 10:38 - OTHER GOSPEL ACCOUNTS WHERE THIS IS RECORDED?
- THIS HAPPENS AFTER THE STORY OF LAZARUS, BUT JOHN USES THE STORY TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIPS.

with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother

SUCH A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT, MARK 14:9 "WHENEVER GOSPEL PROCLAIMED"
BY THE TIME OF JOHN'S WRITING, THIS MUST HAVE BEEN A WELL KNOWN STORY FOR THE EARLY CHURCH.

Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he

THEY KNEW JESUS POWER. SURLEY HE WOULD HEAL HIS CLOSE FRIEND.

KNOWING THAT JESUS WAS A WANTED MAN, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE IN LETTING JESUS KNOW.

- COMMON GREEK WORD FOR "SIR".
- BETTER TO UNDERSTAND THEIR REQUEST LIKE THIS.

whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This

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MAKES SENSE IN CONTEXT OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE DISCIPLES AS WELL.

illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that

THIS MESSAGE WOULD SHARE THE REJOICES OF BOTH THE DISCIPLES AND LAZARUS' FAMILY

WHAT JESUS SAYS IS TRUE. THIS ILLNESS WOULD NOT ULTIMATELY END IN DEATH, BUT IN RESURRECTION.

JESUS PHRASE IS WISE TO US. LIKE JOB.

- HERE JOHN LETS US IN ON THE PURPOSE OF LAZARUS' ILLNESS AND DEATH.

- DESIGNED WELL, FOR HIS OWN GLORY.

the Son of God may be glorified through it."

IT IS NOT NARCISSISTIC BECAUSE OUR ULTIMATE GOOD IS FOUND IN HIS GLORY.
PS 23 "HIS NAME SHALL"

GODS GLORY AND OUR ULTIMATE GOOD ARE TIED TOGETHER.

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when

CHEERFUL, HOW AFFECTION FOR agape
IF THE PREVIOUS SECTION FELT LIKE DIVINE INDIFFERENCE, THEN JOHN NOW SHOWS THE LOVE, AFFECTION AND CARE JESUS HAS FOR THIS FAMILY.

he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the

- THIS ENSURED THAT LAZARUS WAS TRULY DEAD
- SOMETIMES OUR GREATEST NEED IS NOT WHAT WE THINK IT IS. JESUS KNOWS THAT THEY NEED A NEW BIRTH, NOT JUST A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION.
BELIEF -> ETERNAL LIFE.

place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples,

WHY? TRAVEL TIME?
TRANSJORDAN. 1 DAY TRAVEL

AFTER TWO DAYS. BY THIS TIME, THE DISCIPLES CLEARLY DIDN'T CONNECT LAZARUS' ILLNESS TO JESUS' PLAN TO GO BACK.

“Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi,

BACK TOWARD HOSTILITY, NEAR JERUSALEM

the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going

GENERAL REFERENCE INTENDED TO DESCRIBE THE PHARISEES + OTHER RECIDIVOUS LEADERS.

JESUS HAD ESCAPED, BUT HOSTILITY REMAINS. HEH WAS NOT SUICIDED.
- REMEMBER, NO ONE TAKES HIS LIFE FROM HIM.

there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in

IT SEEMS CLEARLY THAT JESUS HAD TOLD THEM THAT THEY WERE LEAVING JERUSALEM BECAUSE OF THE TENSION. V.39-40

CONTRAST LIGHT AND DARKNESS AGAIN
- A SIMPLE WAY THAT THE ANCIENT WOULD DISTINGUISH NIGHT AND DAY WITHOUT TIMEPEICES.
- THEY WOULD DIVIDE DAYLIGHT INTO 12 PEECES. 1/12 OF DAYLIGHT = 1 HOUR.

the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble,

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE TO DEMONSTRATE A SPIRITUAL REALITY.

WORK WAS DONE IN THE DAY. YOU WERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LIGHT WHILE YOU HAVE IT.

DAYLIGHT IS A PICTURE OF JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY.
- EVEN LATE IN JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY, HE STILL HAD WORK TO DO.

because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in

REFERENCE TO JESUS HIMSELF

THE SUNLIGHT, BUT A DEEPER REFERENCE TO HIMSELF.

the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After

BY CONTRAST, ANYONE WHO REFLECTS THE LIGHT IS LOST IN DARKNESS. REJECTION OF CHRIST RESULTS IN A SPIRITUAL STUMBLING

CLEARLY A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM AS LIGHT IS INTERNAL, NOT EXTERNAL

saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has

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JESUS EXPLAINS NOW WHY HE NEEDS TO GO TO JUDEA.

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JESUS CALLS IT SLEEP SINCE HE KNOWS HOW THE STAFF ENDS

OPTION 1 - HE DIED SOON AFTER THE MESSENGERS LEFT TO FIND JESUS.

- 1 DAY TRAVEL, 2 DAY WAIT, 1 DAY TRAVEL.

OPTION 2 - JESUS WAITED 2 DAYS UNTIL LAZARUS DIED, THEN TRAVELED 4 DAYS FROM BETHANY/BETHANEA.

THIS ACT WILL CONVINCE THE SANHEDRIN TO KILL JESUS U.S.S

JESUS HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THAT HE COULD HEAL FROM A DISTANCE. JOHN 4:46-52. OFFICER'S SON.

him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus

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had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking

SINCE JESUS HAD TOLD THEM HE WOULDN'T DIE, THEY JUST ASSUME HE IS RESTING.

rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died,

POSSIBLY RECOVERING FROM FEVER + ILLNESS

OPEN, CONFIDENT

THIS WOULD HAVE SURPRISED THE DISCIPLES.

- JESUS KNEW WITHOUT A DOUBT

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JESUS IS MOTIVATED BY COMPASSION, BUT ALSO TRUST HIS DISCIPLES WOULD BELIEVE IN HIM.

ETERNAL LIFE IS MORE VALUABLE THAN PHYSICAL LIFE

- LAZARUS BEING 'REALLY DEAD' REMOVED DOUBT AROUND RESUSCITATION.

- THE HIGHER PURPOSE MADE JESUS DECEAL GOOD.

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EVEN THOUGH THOMAS BELIEVES IT WILL END BAD FOR JESUS AND HIMSELF, HE STILL GOES.

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been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem,

about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to

Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So

Apply

Application must always be downstream of interpretation. Faithful exposition may lead to many applications. Sometimes the text is specific and obvious. Sometimes we pull principles. Sometimes, we simply grow in our knowledge of God that informs our Christian life.

Faithful application from a text means the application is found *in* that text. Often we can make the application of the text a generic Christian principle that was not specifically taught in the section you studied. Make sure that your application is tied to a correct understanding of the text.

Build Sermon

You may be tempted to be done at the application section. I would encourage you to at times imagine that you were going to teach a class on the section you just studied.

Knowing something well enough to teach it to others is a good standard to apply to your Bible study.

Teaching must be focused, clear, and the main points articulated. Difficult sections need to be explained simply. The text in question should be understood so deeply that it can be explained in a simple and organized way.

Pray

(throughout the process)

In every step of this, we are in need of the help of the Holy Spirit. We need to have eyes to see, minds to understand, and hearts to respond. Study without the Spirit of God is a fruitless endeavor.

Tools

Study Bibles

- MacArthur Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible

Commentaries

- “Commentaries For Biblical Expositors” by Dr. Jim Rosscup

This book serves as a helpful guide when looking to get a commentary. He breaks down the strengths and weaknesses for different commentaries for books of the Bible. Unfortunately, He has since passed, so no new edition is coming.

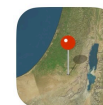
Digital Tools

Applications



Logos: Deep Bible Study
Read, learn, and grow anywhere

- Logos
 - This app is free, but there are plenty of resources and plans that can cost a lot of money.
 - It can be very useful for word studies and help with original languages.



Bible Map
Engage the World of the Bible

OPEN

- Bible Map
 - This app is free as well. It can be a very helpful quick reference guide.
 - However, it may not always be perfectly accurate, and further study or trusted maps may be needed to confirm.

Websites

- gotquestions.org
 - This is a really helpful website for textual and theological questions. I have found that the writers are theologically trustworthy, and can be a helpful resource.
- ligonier.org
 - A ministry library from R.C. Sproul and other contributors such as Voddie Baucham, Steve Lawson, Sinclair Ferguson, etc.
- GTY.org
 - A ministry library from John MacArthur and other contributors.
- desiringgod.org
 - A ministry library from John Piper and other contributors.
- truthforlife.org
 - A ministry library from Alistair Begg and other contributors.
- thegospelcoalition.org
 - This can be a mixed bag depending on the author. TGC is more open to different theological perspectives, but there are at times very helpful articles on theology and textual explanation.
- stepbible.org
 - A free web-based bible software. Helpful with quick interactive word studies.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor,

but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag

he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said,

“Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my

burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not

always have me.” 9 When the large crowd of the Jews learned

that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but

also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So

the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well,

11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away

and believing in Jesus.