

God Is...Making Lists

Context is king!..And his goal is AIM (Author's Intended Meaning) Don't EVER forget it. This should color everything you read and understand. Also I'll use the word God to include Jesus and the Holy Spirit. When preparing to make your God/Holy Spirit/Jesus (God) list I find it is easier to mark up your Bible text first, however, it's your study so have fun. We have a word for word translation, NASB (New American Standard Bible) which is double spaced and does not contain any chapter headings or themes we suggest you use. You'll learn so much more when you discover these for yourself. This is a very important process, don't skip it. Mark what is happening in your margins to the side to help you easier find a theme later. (JC feeds 5k is one thing I marked on my text.)

This is how I do my marking, but you are encouraged to choose any style that works for you. I use three different symbols for the three heads of the Trinity. Jesus = a red underlining of the word for Jesus and a cross at the side. Holy Spirit is a blue ghost above the word. God is a purple triangle through the center of the word, because red (for Jesus) and blue (for Holy Spirit) make purple! You can use any symbols or colors that you can remember. Just use acid free ink if writing in your Bible.

First: Read the text and mark Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Second: Read the text again and mark God. And 1 or 2 word notes on what's happening in the margin IF you have not already done so.

Third: Read through the text while writing up your list.

Hint 1:

If you use three ring notebook paper to write up your list you can transfer them to a God three ring binder later. I just started doing that about 5 years ago and I already have an amazing look at what God says about God. It is actually FUN to just read what you've learned about God so far at a later date!

Hint 2:

To avoid getting confused later I suggest putting a header at the top which says: God/HS/JC John Chapter __. Then use the margin to the left for the verse number where information about God/HS/JC appears. Keeping your "addresses straight" will help you in two ways: One- if you do half a chapter at a sitting and come back the next day, you'll know where you left off. Two-When the Holy Spirit reveals a truth to you that you've not noticed before and you bring it up in discussion we can all find it with you! When the Holy Spirit shares a truth with you, make sure you tell all of us!

Don't worry there are some chapters that will not discuss an attribute of God for 20-30 verses or will be devoid of any direct information about God's character. They may contain information TO us FROM God, but not direct information about God.

When you are writing up your God list you want to stay true to the Word without simply rewriting the verse. For example: The Bible text reads:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Chapter 1

Vs 1: God was the Word. NS: Look up word for Word, is this Jesus or Bible?

The Word was in the beginning. NS: beginning of what?

The Word was with God. NS: Trinity

Vs 2: God and He were together in the beginning. NS: God and the Word are different parts of the trinity!

Vs 3: He created all things that came or will come into being.

Vs 4: The life of men was in Him. The life is the light of men.

You see we put the information in our own words while still maintaining the integrity of the text. You will note a NS: That means: Note to Self...information not in the text but what I have learned from it, or need to look up later.

If you are asked to make a list for other characters you do it almost the same way. For example you may be asked to make a John the Baptist list; wherein you list all the attributes of and activities of John the Baptist. In that case you would list them in order by chapter and verse as they appear throughout the entire book. So you would quickly re-read the text to effectively mark John the Baptist in a distinctive way to make creating your list easier while giving you full context. You also get the added bonus of faster list making, EVEN when you re-read and mark the text!

Inductive Bible Study

Use the Bible as our primary source, almost only source. Let scripture interpret scripture.

- Observation – What does it say? Examine the text asking – 5 W's & H ???? (Who What When Where Why & How)
Mark your text:
People, God/HS/ JC
Key words/phrases
Lists
- Interpretation – What does it mean?
Context is king – AIM is his goal (Author's Intended Meaning)
Scripture must always be interpreted in context. Who is the book written to? What would THEY think if THEY were reading the SAME text? That is what it means!
Use word studies/cross references
- Application – How does the meaning apply to me?

Overview: the big picture
Discover the context

The type of literature

The Historical setting
Look at people –
Author
Recipients
Others

Is there a problem for the recipients of the first letter? It often leads to a big reason for the book.

Key Words/phrases -
Theme –
Purpose –
Summarize –