

BIOGRAPICAL METHOD

Dynamic Bible Study Methods

by Rick Warren

Definition:

- Select a biblical person and research the Scriptures about that individual in order to study his her life and character. Attempt to find out what made an individual's life a spiritual success or failure. Try to become thoroughly acquainted with the inner life of the person you are studying.

Step One - Select the Bible Person You Want to Study

- It is helpful to begin with a person that has few references in Scripture.
- Be careful not to confuse different people who have the same name when looking up references.
- Make sure to find the various names which may apply to just one person. (Example: Peter-Simon)

Step Two - Make a List of All the References about that Person

- Use a concordance or topical Bible to find all the references you can about the person.

Step Three - Write Down Impressions, Observations, and Other Important Info.

- As you read the references you've listed, make some notes about your first impressions you have about the person. -Then write down some basic observations and important information you discover about the person.

Step Four - Make a Chronological Outline

- Allows you to see how God slowly molded and changed the person or how Satan brought him down.

Step Five - Identify Some Character Qualities

- Make a list of good and bad character qualities that stick out in the person's life along with the accompanying verse.

Step Six - Show How Other Bible Truths Are Illustrated in His Life

- Examine the person's life to see how it illustrates other truths taught in the Bible.
- Examples: Look for examples that illustrate the Biblical truth that "you reap what you sow." Look for examples that illustrate the Biblical truths from Proverbs or Psalms. .

Step Seven - Summarize the Main Lesson(s) From His Life

- In a few sentences write out what you think is the main lesson that is taught or illustrated by this person's life. -Ask yourself if there is anyone word that could describe the person's life?
- Ask yourself what was his or her outstanding characteristic?

Step Eight - Write Out a Personal Application

- Ask yourself:
 - Did I see anything of myself in this person's life? Did he show some of my weakness?
 - Did he reveal to me some of my strengths? What impressed me most about this person's life? Where do I fall short in this area? What do I intend to do about it?

Step Nine - Pass It On

- Share the insights you received with someone else.

Helpful Bible Study Tools:

- Bible
- Exhaustive Concordance
- Topical Bible