

# **TOPICAL METHOD**

*Dynamic Bible Study Methods*

by Rick Warren

Definition:

- Involves selecting a biblical subject and tracing it through the Bible in order to discover what God says about the topic.

## **Step One - Compile a List of Words**

- Make a list of all the related words (synonyms and antonyms), phrases, events, and anything else that could have something to do with your chosen topic.
- Be careful to not make your topic too broad.

## **Step Two - Collect Bible References**

- Use a concordance and topical bible to gather all the verses you can find on the topic.

## **Step Three - Consider Each Reference Individually**

- Look up, read and study each individual reference and write down your observations and insights on it.
- Be sure to read the verses or chapter surrounded the verse. This enables you to better understand the context of the verse.

## **Step Four - Compare and Group the References**

- After you have looked up, read and studied the references you will begin to notice that many of the references can be grouped together because they deal with the same areas of the topic you are studying.
- Categorize these references together.

## **Step Five - Condense Your Study into an Outline**

- Use the categories from step four to logically arrange your main divisions or outline of your study along with the accompanying verses.

**Example:**

- I. Faithfulness is a Godly Quality
- II. Faithful Men are Hard to Find
- III. Biblical Examples of Faithful Men
  - A. Old Testament Examples
  - B. New Testament Examples
  - C. Insights
- IV. Characteristics of a Faithful Man
- V. Ways to Test a Man's Faithfulness
- VI. The Benefits of Being a Faithful Man

## **Step Six - Summarize the Study**

- Write out a brief paragraph about your findings and observations of the topic.

## **Step Seven - Write Out a Personal Application**

- Write out how will specifically apply this topic in your life.