

## **Bible Study Methods: Word Studies**

Helpful words to do a word study from the following verses:

Phil. 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Phil. 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Phil. 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Steps of a word study:**

1. Identify
  - a. Work through which words would be the most important for studying in order to understand a passage.
  - b. You did this over the course of this week.
  - c. Refer to the list for identifying the most important words to study from the previous handout.
2. Establish & Gather
  - a. These two steps go together.
  - b. Here you will establish all the possible meanings of a word and gather its uses in the Bible.
  - c. Helpful resources here would include commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and concordances

Some online resources

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

3. Survey
  - a. Read the list of results in their context.
  - b. Some helpful questions to ask:
    - i. Does this word occur more in certain parts of the Bible?
    - ii. In what genre of writing is it used?

- iii. What other words are used with it frequently?
- iv. How does the author of my text use the word?

4. Analyze

- a. Use the information you've gained to discern the most likely meaning for the word you are studying
- b. Some questions to ask:
  - i. What does this passage seem to be about?
  - ii. Are there other uses of this word that seem to occur in similar passages?
  - iii. Read the paragraph with each possible meaning. Which one makes the most sense?

5. Check

- a. Now is the time to check your work.
- b. Look again at other translations, commentaries, and study tools to see if you can find others who agree with you.
- c. If, during this process, you stumble across more possibilities, then you can repeat some steps.

**Additional notes:**

- Word studies are about accuracy not about efficiency.
- So don't be discouraged if it takes you a long time at first. The more detail and effort you put into a word study the more you will get out of it.
- The more you learn upfront, the easier it will be to do word studies later—you are laying a foundation.

**Homework**

-Continue reading through Philippians at least once through this week

-Take some of the words you've highlighted as important from Phil. 1:27; 3:1, 3:21 and do a word study.

-Challenge yourself. If this is something you've done before then do it a few times. If this is all new to you then try with just one to two words to start.

