

## Lesson 17: How to Give Bible Studies (Part 2)

### Introduction

In the last lesson, we learned how important it is that everyone, not just the pastor, should give Bible studies. God's desire is for all church members to hold Bible studies, because it is the only way that the church can fulfill its commission. In the last lesson, we also became acquainted with the Bible readings method, which God affirmed through Ellen White. This method is fascinatingly simple and very effective when it is used correctly.



Please describe in your own words what this method consists of.

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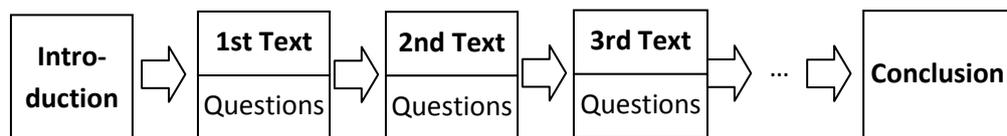
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### The Next Step

We learned how to study a Bible text by content, meaning, and application and then to develop corresponding questions to these. Every Bible text with its corresponding questions is like a building stone. In this next step we will learn how to put the right Bible texts together for a Bible study.



We will now use the Bible study about the Second Coming to demonstrate how you can find the right Bible texts and put them together in a good sequence.

### 1st Step

#### Finding all the important Bible texts for a topic.

In the first step, the main focus is to thoroughly study the topic in order to have a clear overview of it and to have all the important texts together. After all we don't want to miss any important texts. In order to find all the important texts there are some very good resources:

1. Concordances / computer Bibles
2. Cross references in the Bible texts
3. Bible encyclopedias
4. The book: "Seventh-day Adventists believe..."
5. Bible studies from other people

For the example of the Second Coming the following texts could be used:

- Isaiah 25:6-9
- Matthew 16:27; 24:1-25, 46
- Luke 17:26-30
- John 6:39,40,44,54; 14:1-3
- Acts 1:9-11
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-5,23
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2:1-12
- 2 Timothy 4:8
- 2 Peter 3:11-13
- James 5:7-9
- Revelation 1:7; 6:16ff; 14:14-20; 19:11-21; 22:13,20

Of course there are many more Bible texts, particularly for this topic. But these are the most important ones.

**2nd Step      Sorting the Bible texts by sub-topics.**

In the second step, it is necessary to sort the collected Bible verses by topic in order to get an overview of the most important aspects. In our study the following topics could be listed:

1. Jesus will come again personally.
2. The second coming will be visible.
3. Jesus will reward the faithful.
4. Jesus will come with His angels.
5. The faithful dead will be resurrected.
6. The faithful will all go to heaven.
7. The ungodly people will die.
8. The antichrist will be destroyed.
9. The earth will be destroyed.
10. The faithful are hoping and yearning for the second coming.
11. Preparation for the second coming.
12. The joyful anticipation of the second coming.



Please read the Bible verses above and sort them by topic. Some verses fit to more than one topic.

Topic	Bible Texts
1. Jesus will personally come again.	
2. The second coming will be visible.	
3. Jesus will reward the faithful.	

4. Jesus will come with His angels	
5. The faithful dead will be resurrected.	
6. The faithful will all go to heaven.	
7. The ungodly people will die.	
8. The antichrist will be destroyed.	
9. The earth will be destroyed.	
10. The faithful are hoping and yearning for the second coming.	
11. Preparation for the second coming.	
12. The joyful anticipation of the second coming.	

### 3rd Step **Choosing sub-topics**

In this step we will select the sub-topics, which should be discussed in the Bible study. To do this, the goal of the Bible study has to be clear. With this topic we have two possibilities:

1. The Bible study should give an overview of the events of the second coming and give an invitation to prepare oneself for the second coming.
2. The Bible study should deal with only one of the sub-topics (e.g. the resurrection).

It is important to clearly express the goal of the Bible Study so that when you are preparing you can create a clear and simple structure and not get sidetracked. For our example case we will choose the first alternative and will choose the following sub-topics:

1. Jesus will personally come again
2. The second coming will be visible
3. Jesus will come with His angels
4. The faithful dead will be resurrected
5. The faithful will all go to heaven
6. The ungodly people will die
7. The faithful are hoping and yearning for the second coming

Our goal is that our friend understands that the second coming is a real, literal, future event and what the characteristics and events of the second coming are. In addition, it should become clear that all of heaven is joyfully anticipating the second coming and when we trust Jesus we may also have this joyful anticipation.

#### **4th Step**      **Choosing Bible texts**

Generally, there will be several Bible texts for each sub-topic. Now we have to choose the Bible texts that clearly support each statement and most closely correspond to our objective. It is important to remember that we should keep the number of Bible texts to a minimum. As a general rule 8 to 10 texts are enough.

The results could look like this:

1. Jesus will personally come again: John 14:1-3, Acts 1:7-9
2. The second coming will be visible: Acts 1:7-9; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:27-31
3. Jesus will come with His angels: Matthew 24:31; 25:31
4. The faithful dead will be resurrected: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
5. The faithful will all go to heaven: 1 Thessalonians 4:17
6. The ungodly people will die: Luke 17:26-30
7. The faithful are hoping and yearning for the second coming: Revelation 22:20

#### **5th Step**      **Putting the Bible texts in the right order**

In the 5th step we put the Bible texts in logical order. The text order for the second coming could look like this:

1. John 14:1-3
2. Acts 1:9-11
3. Revelation 1:7
4. Matthew 24:23-27
5. Matthew 24:29-31
6. Matthew 25:31
7. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
8. Luke 17:26-30
9. Revelation 22:20

#### **6th Step**      **Developing questions for the Bible texts**

Lastly, we need the questions, which will guide our study of the content, meaning, and application of each Bible verse. Now we have to consider which statements in the Bible texts we want to expand on and how we can ask questions that will guide the learner. You will also want to think of a good introduction and conclusion.



Please write down questions on the content, meaning and application for the following Bible texts.

John 14:1-3

Acts 1:9-11

Revelation 1:7

Matthew 24:23-27

Matthew 24:29-31

Matthew 25:31

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Luke 17:26-30

Revelation 22:20

## The Finished Bible Study

### Introduction

- Many people today have a very pessimistic look about the future. Can you think of a reason for being positive about the future?
- Today we want to study one of the most important topics in the Bible – the second coming of Jesus. Have you ever heard how Jesus will come again?

The Bible talks about it in many passages. I've selected the most important passages so that you can have an overview of this topic.

### John 14:1-3

- With which words does Jesus introduce this topic?
- What does this statement mean?
- When is Jesus' second coming good news?
  - ⇒ Jesus' second coming isn't an event that we need to fear. When we trust Jesus we joyfully look forward to it.
- What has Jesus been doing since He ascended back into heaven?
- What does Jesus promise His disciples He will do when He is done with that?
- When will Jesus take the faithful to heaven?
  - ⇒ Here Jesus compares His coming with an oriental wedding, where the groom takes the bride to the house he has prepared for her. Just as the groom thinks of the bride all the time Jesus also thinks of us.

### Acts 1:9-11

- How did Jesus return to heaven? Was it visible or invisible?
- According to this text how will Jesus come again?
  - ⇒ Visible and personally
  - ⇒ "this same Jesus": Jesus won't come as a stranger.

### Revelation 1:7

- How many people will see Jesus when He comes?
- What does that mean for you when He comes?
  - ⇒ You won't find out about Jesus' second coming in the news. You will see it with your own eyes.

### Matthew 24:23-26

- Why is it so important to know that Jesus will come visibly for everyone?
- What ability will false Christs have?
- According to Jesus' words, what shouldn't we do when we hear in the news that Jesus has come and is performing miracles somewhere?

### Matthew 24:27

- What does Jesus compare His coming to?
- What does that mean?

### **Matthew 24:29-31**

- What all will happen when Jesus comes again?
- Who will see Jesus when He comes?
- How will Jesus come again?
- Who will accompany Jesus when He comes?
  - ⇒ Make a short reference to Matthew 25:31: all the angels will accompany Him. Just like no one wants to miss the bridal procession when the groom takes the bride home, neither do the angels want to miss it when Jesus takes the faithful to heaven.
- What do the angels have with them?
  - ⇒ The angels have trumpets. Jesus' second coming will not only be visible but also audible.
- What happens then with the faithful?
  - ⇒ In John 14:3 we read that Jesus will take the faithful. Here this detail is being expanded – the angels will gather the faithful.
  - ⇒ In verse 26 Jesus said that we shouldn't go where others claim He has come. When Jesus comes we will be picked up. I want to be there when my angel looks for me and not by a massive event of a false Christ.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

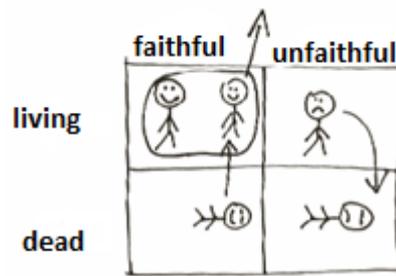
The Christians in Thessalonica believed that Jesus would come again so soon that not one of them would die. But when someone died, they were confused. Paul gives them an answer and comfort.

- By what means does Paul comfort the believers?
- What two groups does Paul describe here?
- What happens to them at the second coming?

### **Luke 17:26-30**

- What events does Jesus compare His coming with?
- What happened to the faithful? What happened to the unfaithful?
- From this example what will happen to the unfaithful when Jesus comes again?
- How many people will still be alive on the earth?

With the last two texts you can draw a sketch piece by piece to demonstrate what will happen to the different groups of people when Jesus comes again.



**Revelation 22:20**

- What promise does Jesus make?
- How does John feel about this promise?  
 ⇒ Is he happy about it?
- What do you feel when you think about Jesus coming back again?
- Would you be ready if Jesus came back today?

In the next lessons we want to study how we can be ready when Jesus comes again.

While holding this Bible study it is helpful to draw a sketch of *how* Jesus will come again and *what* all will happen.

- How?
- literally
  - personally
  - as lightning
  - visible for everyone
  - in the clouds
  - with great power and glory
  - audible



- What?
- Resurrection of the faithful
  - Jesus takes the faithful with Him. (rapture)
  - Death of the unfaithful

**Challenge**

1. Continue to pray for the people on your prayer list and keep your eyes open for the opportunity to do something good for them and to give them spiritual impulses.
2. Keep on praying specifically for a person that you can give personal Bible studies to.



**Bible Study**

Please study **2 Timothy 4:7-8** carefully and make notes on the content, meaning, and application and write down questions for each.

**What does the Bible text say?**

(content, meaning, and application)

**How can I ask questions about this?**

(Questions about content, meaning, and application)

