**HOW TO DO A CHAPTER STUDY**

A chapter study helps you to focus in on the details in the chapter to better understand what the author is saying. Each of the skills is used to bring important points to light.

**Look for the 5 W’s and H**

Read the text asking **Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.** For example, in I Thessalonians Chapter 1 read the text asking questions like:

**Who** is this about?

**What** are the repeated main words?

**What** did the Thessalonians do when they heard the Gospel?

**How** did the Gospel come to them?

**Where** did the Gospel sound forth?

Don’t expect every verse or chapter to answer all the 5 W’s and H about a particular subject or person, but **you should read with a questioning mindset.**

(interrogate the text)

***Marking key words and phrases and making lists helps you to answer the 5W’s & H.***

**Mark key words and phrases**

Key words are repeated words within a text which are vital to its meaning.

Mark in a distinctive way each key word or phrase in the chapter along with its pronouns and synonyms. Use color and/or symbols.

EXAMPLE: GOSPEL is a repeated word that is key to understanding the book of I Thess.

Some key words and how to mark include:

God             Jesus Christ            Holy Spirit         affliction

**Lists**

The next step is to list what the chapter says about each of the key words. Look at the place you marked a key word and list what the text says.

**A list** is a compilation of the facts given about a particular word or person. It **gives the 5 W’s and H about that word or person.** Use words from the text.

A list about the word “**Gospel**” in I Thess. C.1 v. 5:

V.5     came in word

    came in power

    came in the Holy Spirit

    came with full conviction

**Mark and evaluate:**

**Contrasts -** Point out the differences. To mark a contrast, put a symbol in the margin by the verse:

I Thess. 5:5

“...for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness.”

        sons of light **/** not of night -  sons of day **/** not of darkness

***Words like “But, however, or nevertheless” might include a contrast***

I Thess. 5:7-8

V. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

V. 8 **But** since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love…

Those sleeping at night **/** we are of the day     who get drunk **/** let us be sober

**Comparisons-** point out similarities. To mark a comparison, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as

***Sometimes “like” or “as” indicate a comparison***

I Thess. 2:7 But we proved to be gentle among you, asanursing mother tenderly cares for her

                   own children.

we (Paul, Silvanus, Timothy) **=** nursing mother who cares for children

**Terms of Conclusion** - show that a conclusion or summary is being made. These help us to understand “why”

***Words like “therefore, for this reason, finally” signify a conclusion or result.***

I Thess. 3:1 Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at

           Athens, alone.

I Thess. 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus ….

**Expressions of Time-** give timing, sequence of events, or progression.

***Words like “Then, after, when, until, the day of …****”*

I Thess. 3:11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you.

I Thess. 2: 2 ...but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

**Identify subjects or themes**

Identify main subjects, events or points of a chapter by observing it paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs can be shown with **boldface** type for the first verse number of a paragraph, by a paragraph symbol or by an indentation at the beginning of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph and in the margin list the event, subject, or main point

I Thess. 4:1-8     Sanctification