

Teacher's Outline

Based on the *Certificate of Biblical Studies Student Handbook*.

Why Study the Word of God

Teaching Aim

- To show that study seeks **obedience**, not knowledge alone.
 - To explain why Scripture is essential for **spiritual life and growth**.
 - To encourage study that pleases **God**.
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Lesson Introduction

- Studying the Bible **is more than learning information**.
- God calls His people to **study** so they may **live by revealed truth**.
- This lesson contrasts knowledge alone with **obedient understanding**.

Opening Discussion Prompt:

Why do people study the Bible, and what results do they expect?

Main Teaching Sections

1. Knowledge Versus Spiritual Truth

Teaching Points

- Knowledge alone does not produce spiritual life.
- Truth received and obeyed produces life and stability.
- Scripture contrasts two sources of learning.
- One leads to life, the other to death.

Scripture Focus

Moses writes in **Genesis 2:9, 17**

“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil... for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

Teacher Emphasis Notes

- Stress the difference between knowing Scripture and living Scripture.
 - Use the tree picture to explain spiritual outcomes.
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2. Hearing and Doing the Work

Teaching Points

- Hearing without obedience is insufficient.
- Obedience reveals true understanding.
- A firm foundation comes from doing Christ's words.
- Disobedience leads to spiritual collapse.

Scripture

Jesus teaches in **Matthew 7:24 to 27**

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock... and it fell not... and every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man... and great was the fall of it.”

Teacher Emphasis Notes

- Highlight obedience as the evidence of true study.
 - Avoid discussing works apart from truth lived.
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3. Study Is a Command from God

Teaching Points

- Study is not optional for believers.
- God desires approved workers.
- Right division requires careful study.
- Study removes shame and confusion.

Scripture Focus

Paul writes in **2 Timothy 2:15**:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Teacher Emphasis Notes

- Explain that approval is from God, not people.
 - Clarify that study serves truth, not pride.
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4. The Word Cleanses and Sustains Life

Teaching Points

- The Word brings cleansing through light.
- Ongoing life is sustained by truth.
- Spiritual life begins by the Word.
- Growth continues by the same Word.

Scripture Focus

John writes in **1 John 1:7**

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

Peter writes in **1 Peter 1:23**

“Being born again... by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

Teacher Emphasis Notes

- Connect study with daily spiritual maintenance.
 - Reinforce that the Word both begins and sustains life
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5. The Word Produces Growth and Profit

- Growth comes through **sincere desire for truth**.
- Profit **follows obedience**, not ambition.
- Scripture **equips believers** for success.
- God defines **true prosperity**.

Scripture References

Joshua records in **Joshua 1:8**:

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth... for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Peter exhorts in **1 Peter 2:2**:

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

Teacher Emphasis Notes

- Define success as spiritual faithfulness.
 - Avoid linking study with material gain
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Conclusion

The Certificate of Biblical Studies is a tool for learning Christ through His Word. Faithful study produces disciples who can teach others.

Optional Review Questions

1. What is the main purpose of biblical study?
2. Why is personal responsibility important in learning?
3. How does Scripture define a disciple?
4. Why must truth be passed on to others?