



HOW TO DO A WORD STUDY

A biblical word study helps you understand what a passage meant to the original writers and readers. It deepens your interpretation of the text and helps you not to misinterpret or misunderstand what is written. Word studies help you deepen theological understanding and help you to accurately apply the text.



1.

Choose the Verse and Word

Select the specific verse and the word you want to study.



2.

Compare Translations

Look up the verse in several translations (NKJV, NASB, ESV, NIV, NLT).



3.

Look up Definition

Use a dictionary to look up the basic definition.

ἀγάπη
אהבה

4.

Check the Original Language

Look at the word in its original language (Old Testament – Hebrew, New Testament – Greek). A helpful website to use is blueletterbible.org.



5.

Find Other Uses

Locate other places the word appears in the Bible.
Is the meaning the same?
Does the context change the meaning?



6.

Study the Context

Who is speaking?
Who is the audience?
What is the situation?



7.

Summarize

Write a summary of what the word means in that specific passage.



8.

Reflect

How did your word study deepen your understanding of God and Scripture?
What is the appropriate way to apply your findings in your life as a disciple of Jesus?