

How to Study the Bible

by **Thomas Maphori**

*Developed in Cooperation with
the Global University Staff*

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First, Let's Have a Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Author

The Bible, which is the Word of God, reveals God's plan for every person. The plan is for our redemption or salvation by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. As soon as we do this, we are saved.

Once we have chosen to follow God's plan for our lives, we are responsible not only to conform our own lives and characters to Christ's image, but to share Christ's love with others so their lives can be transformed. We can fulfill our responsibilities as we respond to the Holy Spirit, who reveals God to us when we study the Bible.

The study of God's Word demands our best attention. The Holy Spirit teaches us, but we must apply ourselves as well. It takes careful study of the Bible to understand its deep meanings.

This course will present basic facts about the Bible and give you a few methods by which to organize your study. Without a plan of action, it would be very difficult to build a house, sew a dress, or graduate from school. But a plan of action makes any task more enjoyable and profitable. A modern method of teaching yourself helps you to learn the principles easily and put them into practice immediately.

Your Study Guide

This book is a pocket-sized workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have five or ten minutes free. Try to do at least a lesson a week.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lessons. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

1 A week has a total of

- a) 10 days.
- b) 7 days.
- c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| ..1.. a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| ..2.. b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ..2.. c | Marched around Jericho | |
| ..1.. d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Author

Thomas Maphori is an African pastor who chose to study and work in his own area. He attended African Bible College in Rustenburg, Republic of South Africa, for three years and is continuing his studies under the ICI program.

Besides teaching and pastoring, Mr. Maphori has shown active interest in his community, serving as school board secretary for two years. He and his wife, Matshediso, have two children.

Now you are ready to begin Lesson 1. God bless you as you study!

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.