

## How to do Biblical Studies

### 1. **Choose your topic.**

You have 10 topics to choose from in the Ambassador League: Lordship of Christ, Mercy, Justice, Self-government/Self-control, Civil Government, Sanctity of Marriage, Sanctity of Life, Homosexuality, Truth, Ten Commandments and The Nature of Man. Make sure you are clear in your mind exactly what you are studying.

### 2. **Know what the word means**

Using a dictionary, or if you have one, a Hebrew/Greek Bible dictionary, look up the key words from your topic. What are the different words that stand for this in the original languages? How do they differ?

### 3. **Look up verses**

Using a concordance, find verses that contain the word you are searching for, as well as any synonyms of your topic word. Make a list of these verses for yourself for reference while you work on this study. Then go through and read the verses and the surrounding context, focusing on the true meaning of the passage. Most importantly, pray that God will show you what he is saying through his Word. Do these passages affirm or change your opinion on the topic?

### 4. **Read commentaries**

For perspective, read commentaries. Writings of the church fathers or great theologians and apologists such as Matthew Henry, Charles Spurgeon, or C.S. Lewis are a great place to start. Many such works can be found online. You may use a limited amount of quotes in your report if you so choose.

### 5. **WRITE.**

You will need to write at least a one-page report on your research. Make sure to follow the Sample Report in your packet!

Before you even start to write, you should know what you want to say and the point you want to make. What are your conclusions on the topic? Know where you are going!

Think in terms of the big picture; that is, the Bible as a whole. For example, if Civil Government is your topic, you would be discussing laws laid down for kings in the Old Testament as well as what Jesus and the Apostles said in the New. What is different? What is the same? Are there promises attached to the topic? Are there warnings? How has this been interpreted traditionally, and how is it applicable today?

Write as if you're instructing a Christian who's never read about this topic in God's Word. Put yourself in their shoes: what is hard to understand? What is contrary to human nature? Sometimes there are no easy answers, but there are verses that will help propel you to a better understanding of an issue.