

Thematic Study

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I. Introduction.

A. A thematic study is tracing a theme through the Bible or a book asking only predetermined questions.

B. A thematic study is a limited form of a topical study.

C. Questions like who, what, where, when and how are building blocks for this study.

D. Tools: Naives Topical Bible or a Thompson's Chain Reference Bible and a concordance such as Young's or Strong's.

II. Choose a theme of which you are interested.

III. List all the references that can be found on the theme.

IV. Decide what you want to find out about a theme by writing down three to five questions.

V. Read references and ask your questions for each verse writing down the answers.

VI. Summarize your answers.

VII. Take your conclusions, and write out a summary.

VIII. Example study: prayer of the New Testament writers.

IX. Tips.

A. Do not list too many questions.

B. Sometimes, you can do a thematic question just using one question.

C. Summarize your conclusions, and seek to apply what you have learned.

X. Example study: discipleship.

A. Discipleship can refer to the Twelve (apprenticeship), any follower (John 6:56), a believer and Jesus' expanding dynamic definition.

B. Questions: What are the marks of discipleship? What are the results of discipleship? How can I be a disciple?

C. References: John 8:31-32, 13:34-35, 15:8, Matthew 16:24-26, 28:19-20, Luke 6:40, 14:26-28, 14:33, Matthew 10:24-25.

Application questions:

1. How would you teach someone else to do a thematic Bible study?

2. Why is it important to have predetermined questions with regard to a theme? What if the Scriptures you have selected do not appear to answer a given question?

3. Work through the references the speaker does in order to do a thematic Bible study on discipleship. What did you learn?
