



Welcome to Explorer's Bible Study

Congratulations! You are about to embark on an exciting and unique adventure. Whether this is your first experience in Bible study or you are a long time student, each venture into God's Word delivers new and life-changing insights. Even if you have studied a particular book of the Bible many times, you will find that it is fresh and new each time you venture to read and study—it is truly the Living Word.

A few words of encouragement as you get started:

Commit to be present for your discussion group and class each week. Just like so many things in life, you will derive greater benefit from being present each week. This is especially critical at the beginning.

Faithfully answer the questions before class. The questions are carefully prepared with the intent of stimulating and challenging you to thoughtful study of the Word. They are tools to help you in your study. If you get stuck on a question, don't despair; just skip it and see how others answer it when you get into your discussion group.

Work on the study each day. You wouldn't consider eating all your food for the week at one meal. Bible study provides spiritual food and having a daily portion is best. That is why the questions are arranged for daily study. Find the best time for your study and stick to it. Having written answers to your questions makes you eligible to participate in the class discussion.

Answer the questions from your Bible, not from commentaries. Our desire is for you to focus on what you have personally learned from the Bible itself, rather than what others have written about it. Record the scripture reference where you found your answer. Unless otherwise indicated, all references should be from the current lesson.

Focus on what the Bible says, not what your pastor said Sunday or what your favorite radio preacher said. Answering the questions will easily consume the time available and keep the study on track.

Just be a listener when your answers are not written down. Working your lesson each week is of great value as it gives opportunity for you to share your answers in the discussion group. In other words, we discourage the "off the top of the head" answers. All students will appreciate this, as the discussion is of greater value when it is a result of personal study.

Invite friends and neighbors to join the class. Nothing works better than a personal invitation, and you just might be the tool God uses to change a life or a family.

The notes and questions, except where indicated, are based on the text of the *New King James Version* (NKJV) of the Bible. Other versions may be used in your study. A couple Bibles we recommend include: *New Living Version* (NLT), *New International Version* (NIV+), and the *English Standard Version* (ESV).

Your study in the Word of God will pay great dividends as you personally experience the precious Word and the great joy of serving Christ and others. The Word of God effects changes in the lives of people. Be prepared to grow spiritually. You are on a great adventure!