**Creative Approaches to Bible Study**

A survey by a large automobile club revealed that traffic signs are scarcely noticed by the people who live near them. In many situations, including Bible study, attention decreases when familiarity increases. Scriptures that we read or hear often tend to lose their spiritual impact. Why? Among other factors, it has been shown that our Bible comprehension is affected by 1) the Bible translation we read and 2) the way we read the Bible.

**Investigate other Bible translations**

Many Christians read almost exclusively from a single Bible translation. The expressions and vocabulary of that translation have become so familiar to them that they can recite many passages by heart. They are comfortable with their Bibles, as with a trusted friend. Many personal Bibles are filled with colorful notes and markings added during many years of study.

Ironically, this familiarity can have negative effects. We become used to a religious vocabulary that other people may not understand, particularly if the translation is a very old one that contains archaic language. Familiarity causes us to read the Bible in a casual, businesslike way. Even the colorful markings in the margins can become mental ruts that discourage reflective Bible study.

Many regular Bible readers find it helpful to try other translations now and then. Comparing various translations could improve Bible comprehension. A slight difference in language may lead to greater spiritual insight. Moreover, we are more likely to put into practice that which we understand. ”I never noticed that before!” and “Is that really in the Bible?” are remarks that indicate a new awareness in Bible study.

**Explore creative methods of Bible study**

Our Bible comprehension may also be improved by one or more of the creative study methods described on the following pages. We invite you to explore these Bible study methods with us in this seminar.

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Date: \_\_\_ Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Study Method(s): Inductive ( 1 or 2 ) / Associative / Devotional

Step I: What does this text mean?

Step II: What does this text mean to me?

Step III. How can I apply this text to my life?

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