

**Mr. New Believer:** Pull out another Bible from under your shirt. Say, “No. Keep your books. I have hidden God’s Word in my heart by studying, memorizing and obeying it. So I know that the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to give me life as no other book can.”

**Mr. Tradition:** “Only priests who have studied modern methods of interpreting ancient documents can understand it.”

**Mr. New Believer:** “Our group shepherd taught us that any believer can understand God’s Word, if we pray and follow the simple rules of interpretation.”

Ask the **children** to present the poem and drama that they have prepared. The children might also ask the adults questions that they have prepared, about their drama.

**Announce** the activities that you planned to do during the week, for families and small groups to study the Bible during the week.

Help one another in **groups** of two or three. Pray, confirm plans and encourage one another.

**To introduce the Lord' Supper**, read Exodus 12, verses 3, 7-8 and 12. Explain briefly the first Passover, the feast to which Jesus added new meaning when He established this most sacred ceremony. Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed to free us from sin and death.

**Memorize** together 2 Timothy 3:16-17.



## Search God's Word as the Bereans Did; Learn How to Study and Apply God's Word

Those who teach children should read study #26 for children.

**Prayer:** “Our Father in heaven, please help us to interpret Your Word accurately, and to store it in our hearts.”



Choose activities that fit current needs and local customs.

### 1. Prepare Your Heart and Mind with God's Word.

Find in **Acts 17:10-12** two ways in which the Bereans responded to the gospel.

Fine in **1 Peter 1:14-22** several things that God’s truth should produce in our lives.

Find in **1 Peter 1:24-25** for how long God’s Word will remain in us.

Find in **2 Timothy 3:10-17** what Paul wrote to Timothy:

- What things did Timothy observe in Paul’s life that gave Timothy valuable instruction? *See verses 10-13.*
- What did Timothy know since his childhood that made certain his salvation by faith in Jesus? *See verse 14-15*
- Who inspired the human writers of the Bible? *See verse 16.*
- In what ways should we use the Bible to help others? *See verse 16 again.*
- For what purpose does God want you to study and apply His Word? *See verse 17.*

Find in **2 Timothy 4:1-5** several tasks for young shepherds. *See verses 2 and 5.*

## 2. Plan with Co-workers Things to Do During the Week

- Visit believers to help them study the Bible themselves.
- Help small groups and families in the congregation to study the Bible together.
- Encourage believers to ask one another what they have learned from their study.
- Help believers to memorize several Scripture verses each week.

My cousin told me things about the Holy Spirit that disagree with what you teach.



You need to see what the Bible itself teaches. Write down these Bible chapters. Examine them to find out for yourself what the Holy Spirit does in our lives.

Write: John chapters 14–16, Romans 8, Galatians 5, and 1 Corinthians chapters 12–14. I will visit you again next week and you can tell me what you found.

## 3. Plan with Co-workers the Upcoming Worship Time

**Pray** for God to speak through His Word by the power of His Holy Spirit, and to help you put into practice immediately what you hear.

**Read** Acts 17:10-12.

- First, ask everyone to listen and discover how the Bereans responded to the gospel.
- Explain that they, too, should examine the Word of God as the Bereans did.

You should actively mine its gold, rather than listen passively. You should begin to examine the Word eagerly, on your own initiative. Here are some steps to help you:

**Explain** how to let the Bible speak for itself. After praying for guidance, do four things:

- 1) Examine the details of a Bible passage, considering each word and phrase.
- 2) If the meaning is not clear, then examine the context and setting of the passage:
  - To whom was it written?
  - Who wrote it and why?
  - What do the verses or chapters before and after it say, that clarifies its meaning?
  - What is the historical occasion?
  - When was it written?  
(If it was written before Christ came, in the Old Covenant, then expect to find laws for ancient Israel that do not apply to your congregations in the New Covenant.)
  - What is God telling us to do in this passage?

**Important:**

- 3) Extract from these details the main truths and applications.
- 4) Put into practice what you have found.

**Praise** God for having given you the Bible.

Ask for **testimonies** and reports from believers about how they have been blessed by studying God's word.

### Skit about interpreting the Bible:

**Mr. Tradition:** Watch 'Mr. New Believer' read a Bible for a moment, then snatch it away from him. Say, "You cannot understand Scripture by yourself. Here are some modern books for you to read instead."