A Topical Bible Study Method

PURPOSE
A topical study is a study of what God's Word has to say regarding a specific topic. The advantage of a topical study is that it gives you the more complete picture of what the Word of God has to say on a particular subject.

PROCEDURE – Choose a topic. It may be one you've previously wanted to research, or it may be a current issue or problem on the job that you would like to see improved, changed or resolved.

I. Look up **every** relative passage on the subject you are studying
- A. Use concordance, topical Bible, chain reference system in your Bible, or websites like BibleGateway or Biblos.com
- B. Remember to look up related words. For example, if you are studying prayer, then also look up intercession, supplication, and petition. If you are studying the tongue, you might list such related terms as words, speaking, boasting, cursing, blessing, utterance, instruction, reproof, or words of knowledge.
- C. Look for major topical passage and where it is first mentioned in the Bible.

II. As you read each passage, put down key verses on your notes with the truths you have gleaned from them.
- A. Study each passage thoroughly
- B. Check context. What is the over idea of the passage where the word occurs?
- C. Compare translations using websites like BibleGateway or Biblos.com. Is the word translated differently in various translations?
- D. Use tools like *Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words* or the website *Biblos* to see the Greek words used and their meanings in that time period.
- E. Record observations, new insights
- F. List key thoughts. Make a note of the references that generated your thoughts.
- G. Define key terms.
- H. Summarize.
- I. Select a key verse. Write out, then memorize, either your favorite verse or the one that best sums up the topic.

III. Organize material into an outline -Example: Spiritual Gifts
- A. Definition
- B. Purpose
- C. List of spiritual gifts and their definitions
- D. How to discern your gift
- E. Feedback – ask other serious students to review your study and give feedback.
- F. Application – Make a personal application. Ask:
    1) How do these truths apply to me?
    2) List ways you can apply your topical study to your relationship with God, to your life, to your relationships with others, and to the church.
    3) What is my specific game plan?