

Since several have asked for our notes from last night's lectures *How to Study the Bible*—we have attached the 1st lecture as well as prevailing on Brent to add them to our Web site.

A couple of comments- if you missed last night we had nearly 60 attend the lecture and the questions/interaction was/is ***an opportunity you will want too participate in the coming weeks***. These lectures are not sequential; if you missed last night you can easily pick up and find value with whichever Sunday evening you are able to attend. Obviously, missing the questions and comments from your fellow sisters/brothers is not so easily acquired—so come and bring a friend!! Again these are ***not doctrinal*** in nature rather the lectures are mechanically oriented-- big emphasis on "***How***" to the study, not ***what***. We leave the "***what***" for you to envelope yourselves with God's revelation guided by the Holy Spirit!! So come and join us whenever possible, I am certain you will not be disappointed.

Thoughts to accompany the attached slides:

- 1) The Bible is God's divine revelation. It is both divine and human. Divine from God and human because God used human writers; therefore we must investigate the author's language and culture
- 2) Read the Bible as you would any other text— in sentences/ paragraphs, look for the ***Big Idea*** not some obscure hidden meaning
- 3) Remember context is crucial; we must examine the "***there and then***"- the author's original thought before searching for an application to ourselves—"***here and now***"
- 4) Avoid using proof-text study habits. The Bible is God's revelation to you; his message is trying to reach your heart, not for your use in the next "debate". Plus and this important, allow God to speak to you rather than you presuming what God is saying. Read to understand, grow, and develop.
- 5) Use at least two "good" English translations

Most of all read your bibles. You might zero into Luke's Gospel since the Bible Bowl kids are using it. In support of the kids I am using Luke's gospel text for our sermons in the next month or so.

howard