

S. P. E. C. K. BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Adapted by David B. Vasquez

S Is there a **SIN** to forsake?

What does this passage teach about sin? What specific sins are mentioned? What are the consequences of practicing these sins? How have people suffered for practicing them? Is there any indication of these practices in your life? How do you need to change as a result of these insights?

Example: The list of seven things God hates in Proverbs: "There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers" (Proverbs 6:16-19 ESV).

P Is there a **PROMISE** to claim?

Does the passage state a promise that God makes to someone? To whom is the promise made? How is the promise applicable to you? Are there conditions that need to be met in order to experience the promise? Have you met them? Remember there is a difference between a principle and a promise.

Example: The promise of peace in prayer: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV).

E Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?

Does the passage provide a role model or an example to follow? (On the other hand, does it provide a negative example?) What are the character qualities or practices that are characteristic of this person? Are those same qualities and practices part of your life? What steps could you take to become more like this person?

Example: The example of the tax collector's humility in prayer: "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:13-14 ESV).

C Is there an **COMMAND** to obey?

Does the passage provide a role model or an example to follow? (On the other hand, does it provide a negative example?) What are the character qualities or practices that are characteristic of this person? Are those same qualities and practices part of your life? What steps could you take to become more like this person?

Example: The command to Joshua upon entering the promised land: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 ESV).

K Is there an **KNOWLEDGE** to understand?

What does the passage teach you about God, his character, his purposes, his plans? What does it teach you about people, about life, about circumstances? Is there something about God you need to remember? Is there a principle that you can "log" for future reference when you are in a particular situation?

Example: Matthew 13 is a series of parables that explains the nature of God's kingdom: "He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches'" (Matthew 13:31-32 ESV).