



Bible Study in Practice: Extended

Last time we were working through several common situations, at home, in our own studies, conversations with others, at work, even at funerals. Time kept us from looking at all of these and many wanted to go through them, so we have extended our class one more time to illustrate how we think and use our study of the Bible.

In Bible Class

During a Bible class one of the elders makes the comment that a member is under the oversight of the elders until they place membership with another church. Even if that member moves out of state, they are still under the oversight of the eldership until they place membership with another church. That comment gets many people stirred up and things are said. The teacher of the class announces that next week that will be the topic of study. How do you go about studying this? What is the answer?

At work

A Mormon co-worker spends his lunch hour researching his family genealogy. When you ask him why he was spending so much time on this he says, 'This weekend I am getting baptized for my deceased family members.' When you reply, "I've never heard of that before," he says, "It's in the Bible. Baptism for the Dead is taught in the Bible." Now, how do you approach a study of this?

At a funeral

You attend a funeral for a small child. It's a very sad occasion. During the service, the preacher says that the little boy who died is now one of God's angels who is looking down upon his family. On the way home, your child asks, "Is that true? Do we become angels when we die?" Bible study time. What does the Bible teach? How do you explain this to your child?

In the Neighborhood

During a walk in the neighborhood, you strike up a conversation with one of your neighbors. You invite him to services. When he hears the expression "church of Christ," his immediate response is that "aren't you that legalistic group that thinks they are the only ones going to Heaven." How do you respond? What does the Bible teach?

This exercise, the memorizing the verses we have each week, are things that you will put to practice the rest of your life. We can shy away from conversations like this and remain silent, but is that what God wants you to do? We can say, "I don't know," but is that what God wants you to say? Your faith and your knowledge of God's word becomes a outlet for many people to turn to. They will ask you questions. They will put challenging situations before you. They will want to know. They do not know where to begin, but they know that you know. This is an open door and an opportunity.

How to Study the Bible

