

General Information & Help For Studying Precept Upon Precept

CLASS DISCUSSION

- # Be aware that all of our homework will not all be covered in our discussion because of time restraints.
- # Because of the way the homework is laid out, it doesn't really lend to a great flow of conversation, so we won't go over our homework in the order it was done in most cases.
- # Deep doctrines probably won't be discussed as much as you would like because of time restraints.
- # Sometimes homework seems repetitive – that's the best way to learn
- # Even if you don't finish your homework, I encourage you to come to class – you'll still get a lot out of it. (Much more than if you don't come :o))
- # **Very important** - If you fall behind in your homework, just pick up where the class is currently and go forward. If you have time later, then go back and make up anything left undone. Otherwise you will always be in catch-up mode and it will become very frustrating.

WORKBOOKS

- # The first week is usually an overview which sets the context for the book before getting into the details of each chapter. It's like the corners & edges of a jigsaw puzzle, it sets up boundaries for all the stuff inside and it's the easiest stuff to see – the most obvious.
- # The homework is divided up into days 1-5. It'll probably take an average of around an hour to do one day – some less some more, depending on how fast of a reader you are. Some days are combined. Just do whatever the instructions are for each day. If days are combined, just divide them out as your time allows you.
- # Always read the bold print at the top first, sometimes it gives a purpose for that week's lesson.
- # Often times the homework will begin with the sentence “do not use any other study helps”. This means, don't read any commentaries, any notes in the margins or the bottom of your bible, or call any pastor friends of yours. If you do, you will spoil the thrill of discovery yourself. And even if the homework doesn't say this– don't. There will come a time when she will allow you to look up commentary information and if you have done your homework thoroughly you'll be excited to find that you came up with the same conclusions the commentators did. So don't cheat before hand :o)
- # When you're making your list, either on your observation worksheets or on a chart, be sure to put your scripture reference beside what you write.
- # At the end of the overview lesson you will find an “At a glance chart”. This is sometimes the hardest part but I encourage you to write down SOMETHING for the book and chapter themes (main messages). You can always go back & change it. It's helpful if you use words from the text, but it needs to be something that gives you an indication of what that chapter is about and what the book is about.

HOMEWORK HELPS

- # **ALWAYS** begin your study time in prayer
- # If you will put your notebook in a 3 ring binder, you will find it easier to keep track of things.
- # If possible set aside a specific time each day to do your homework. This will help you avoid cramming.
- # Eliminate distractions (turn off tv, radio & “you have mail” sound, turn on answering machine, put note on door to not disturb etc.)
 - *Of course this will not eliminate the distractions of “flash thoughts” like “I forgot to take my credit card out of my jacket pocket”. If you’re anything like me, if you don’t get up & do it right then, you’ll forget about it. So my suggestion for that is to keep a note pad where you are doing your homework and when those thoughts come flying by, write them down. Then you’re free to continue your work without worry of re-forgetting whatever it was.*
- # Where feasible, write out verses in your homework when given cross references to look up (or print them out on a separate page). This helps you when you’re going back thru your notes.
- # Always check the context of your cross reference scriptures. (The verses before & after)
- # If you have any questions as you’re doing your homework, write them down. You may get them answered by the time you finish that week’s work. If not, bring them to class and we’ll get them answered during our discussion time.