



48 POWERFUL TECHNIQUES TO MAKE YOUR SCRIPTURE STUDY DEEPER AND RICHER



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Introduction

So, you want to get more from your study of the scriptures, do you? Good for you!

Maybe you're stuck in doing the same old reading plan you've done in the past and need something to give you a spiritual jolt. Maybe you're just looking to try something new. Either way, there's a lot of stuff here for you to try and many of these are covered with examples in the ScriptureNotes.com tutorials, study resources, and study topics.

Lets get started.

Scripture Study Methods

In a devotional talk at BYU on February 4, 2007, [Elder Bednar](#) spoke about 3 different methods of obtaining information from the scriptures.

"I now want to review with you three basic ways or methods of obtaining living water from the scriptural reservoir: (1) *reading* the scriptures from beginning to end, (2) *studying* the scriptures by topic, and (3) *searching* the scriptures for connections, patterns, and themes. Each of these approaches can help satisfy our spiritual thirst if we invite the companionship and assistance of the Holy Ghost as we read, study, and search."

In addition, my friend Ken Krogue pointed out that there is also skipping (moving past difficult or detailed areas of scripture where you might get bogged down, to the key stories, covenants, and doctrine that builds testimony) and skimming (looking at trends, stories, chapter summaries, locations, patterns, and big picture macro ideas instead of micro).

I believe most people get stuck reading the scriptures because they don't do it with intent. There's nothing they are searching for, so they never enter "feast-mode." Each of these 5 methods is beneficial at times depending on what we are looking for, and what our constraints are for a given study session.

With Scripture Notes, you are getting a powerful tool that will let you dive into any of these methods, and keep track of all your notes and revelation permanently.

With these things in mind, lets look at some resources and techniques that can help take advantage of the tools at our disposal.

Techniques from Leaders

1) [Cut and Sort by Elder David Bednar](#)

“If you promise not to laugh, I will tell you about one of the simple ways I search for scriptural themes. I do not advocate or recommend that you use the same approach; different people use different methods with equal effectiveness. I am simply describing a process that works well for me.

In preparation for a recent speaking assignment, I was impressed to talk about the spirit and purposes of gathering. I had been studying and pondering Elder Russell M. Nelson’s recent conference message on the principle of gathering (see CR, September–October 2006, 83–87; or “The Gathering of Scattered Israel,” Ensign, November 2006, 79–82), and the topic was perfectly suited to the nature of and setting for my assignment (see “[The Spirit and Purposes of Gathering](#),” address delivered at a BYU–Idaho devotional, 31 October 2006).

I recognized that I had much to learn from the scriptures about gathering. So **I identified and made copies of every scripture in the standard works that included any form of the word gather. I next read each scripture, looking for connections, patterns, and themes.** It is important to note that I did not start my reading with a preconceived set of things for which I was looking. I prayed for the assistance of the Holy Ghost and simply started reading.

As I reviewed the scriptures about gathering, **I marked verses with similar phrases or points of emphasis, using a colored pencil. By the time I had read all of the scriptures, some of the verses were marked in red, some were marked in green, and some were marked in other colors.**

Now, here comes the part that may make you laugh. **I next used my scissors to cut out the scriptures I had copied and sorted them into piles by color.** The process produced a large pile of scriptures marked with red, a large pile of scriptures marked with green, and so forth. I then sorted the scriptures within each large pile into smaller piles. As a first grader I must have really liked cutting with scissors and putting things into piles!

The results of this process taught me a great deal about the principle of gathering...”

Elder Bednar’s technique of color coding verses and sorting them into piles is actually easily accomplished in Scripture Notes with our powerful search and Collection Note features.

2) [Write a Sermon by Elder Bruce R. McConkie](#)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie passed away in 1985. On the LDS church’s web page sharing the memorial biography of Elder McConkie, we find this brief story:

“At age 19, Bruce served a two-year mission in the Eastern States Mission. After returning home he attended school at the University of Utah, earning his B.A. degree, and later his juris doctor degree. It was while walking to and from school at the university that he developed a habit of study that was of great value to him. **He would think of a subject in the gospel such as repentance and would then, in his mind, make up an outline for a sermon on the subject, adding the appropriate scriptures and supporting material. Doing this daily as he walked gave him practice in analysis of doctrinal subjects.** This careful organization and logical progression was evident in his sermons.”

Scripture Notes makes this easy with the master note area of a topic. Just organize all your thoughts about the topic and write it up as a sermon.

3) Study by Topic by Daniel Ludlow

Daniel Ludlow was a professor of religion at BYU. He was the chief editor of the “Encyclopedia of Mormonism” and passed away in 2009. Someone forwarded me this story about a conversation they had with him and gave permission for me to print it.

“I went to a CES lecture at Weber State University about 15 years ago to hear Daniel H. Ludlow speak. He was a BYU religion professor and helped write the Bible Dictionary and several books on the Scriptures. **During a break in his lecture on the Scriptures I asked him ‘how can I become a Scriptorian and Gospel Scholar?’ he told me to do the following:**

1. Read **all of the Scriptures** from beginning to end.
2. Read the **Bible Dictionary** from A to Z, look up all Scriptures referenced.
3. Read the **Topical Guide** from A to Z, look up all Scriptures referenced.
4. Read the **Index** from A to Z, look up all Scriptures referenced.
5. Re-read all of the Scriptures from beginning to end, **Look up every footnote in every verse.**

He told me when you complete all of these steps you will then have a small understanding of the Scriptures, a very, very small understanding.”

If it’s not there by the time you read this, the content from the LDS scriptures is coming to Scripture Notes so you can study these topics, search them, and write summaries about them.

4) [Ponderize by Elder Devin Durrant](#)

In General Conference, October 2015, Elder Durrant shared this idea to get more out of individual scriptures. Have you tried it yet?

I invite you to “ponderize” one verse of scripture each week. The word ponderize is not found in the dictionary, but it has found a place in my heart. So what does it mean to ponderize? I like to say it’s a combination of 80 percent extended pondering and 20 percent memorization.

There are two simple steps:

First, choose a verse of scripture each week and place it where you will see it every day.

Second, read or think of the verse several times each day and ponder the meaning of its words and key phrases throughout the week.

Imagine the uplifting results of doing this weekly for six months, a year, 10 years, or more.

As you make this effort, you will feel an increase in spirituality. You will also be able to teach and lift those you love in more meaningful ways.

5) [Ponder and Pray by Elder D. Todd Christofferson](#)

In April 2010 conference, Elder Christofferson shared the oft-heard counsel we often ignore. When we encounter a verse we don’t comprehend, do we take the time to slow down and ponder it, and then ask God in prayer to open our minds to it? Do we search for an answer, or just continue on in our reading? Slow down to dig deeper. Treasures are under the surface.

“Because they expound the doctrine of Christ, the scriptures are accompanied by the Holy Spirit, whose role it is to bear witness of the Father and the Son (see 3 Nephi 11:32). Therefore, **being in the scriptures is one way we receive the Holy Ghost.** Of course, scripture is given through the Holy Ghost in the first place (see 2 Peter 1:21; D&C 20:26–27; 68:4), and that same Spirit can attest its truth to you and me. **Study the scriptures carefully, deliberately. Ponder and pray over them. Scriptures are revelation, and they will bring added revelation.**”

Remember what the Savior told the Nephites when he perceived that their cups were full (ie. eyes glazed over) and couldn’t understand his words?

*“Go ye unto your homes, and **ponder upon the things which I have said**, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand, and prepare your minds for the morrow.” (3 Ne. 17:3.)*

6 & 7) [Memorization & Margin Notes by Elder Richard G. Scott](#)

In October 2011 conference, Elder Scott shared these thoughts on the importance of memorization and writing down the inspired thoughts that come to us as we study the scriptures. Scripture Notes makes it really easy to record all your thoughts, and as for memorization, that's a feature we'll be adding in the future.

“The scriptures provide the strength of authority to our declarations when they are cited correctly. They can become stalwart friends that are not limited by geography or calendar. They are always available when needed. Their use provides a foundation of truth that can be awakened by the Holy Ghost.

Learning, pondering, searching, and memorizing scriptures is like filling a filing cabinet with friends, values, and truths that can be called upon anytime, anywhere in the world.

Great power can come from memorizing scriptures. To memorize a scripture is to forge a new friendship. It is like discovering a new individual who can help in time of need, give inspiration and comfort, and be a source of motivation for needed change.

...

Pondering a scripture like that **gives great direction to life.** The scriptures can form a foundation of support. They can provide an incredibly large resource of willing friends who can help us. **A memorized scripture becomes an enduring friend that is not weakened with the passage of time.**

Pondering a passage of scripture can be a key to unlock revelation and the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Scriptures can calm an agitated soul, giving peace, hope, and a restoration of confidence in one's ability to overcome the challenges of life. They have potent power to heal emotional challenges when there is faith in the Savior. They can accelerate physical healing.

Scriptures can communicate different meanings at different times in our life, according to our needs. A scripture that we may have read many times can take on nuances of meaning that are refreshing and insightful when we face a new challenge in life.

How do you personally use the scriptures? Do you mark your copy? **Do you put notes in the margin to remember a moment of spiritual guidance or an experience that has taught you a profound lesson?”**

“It is our privilege to store our memories with good and great thoughts and bring them out on the stage of our minds at will. **When the Lord faced His three great temptations in the wilderness, He immediately rebutted the devil with appropriate scripture which He had stored in His memory”** (President Ezra Taft Benson, “Think on Christ,” General Conference, Apr. 1984).

“There is a power that can change lives in the specific words recorded in the standard works. That power is weakened when we paraphrase or alter the actual wording. I therefore suggest that you encourage students to cite scripture content with precision. All you do to encourage students to memorize selected scriptures accurately will bring to bear in their lives the power of their content”

(Elder Richard G. Scott, "Four Fundamentals for Those Who Teach and Inspire Youth," in *Old Testament Symposium Speeches*, 1987, 5).

8, 9, 10, 11) [Liken the Scriptures, Use a Notebook, try a Foreign Language, Answer the Lord's Questions.](#) by Sister Julie Beck

In April 2004 General Conference, Sister Beck shared several ideas for studying the scriptures. I'm cheating and counting this for 4 ideas so I don't break them up. :)

"One good way to start studying the scriptures is to **"liken" them to ourselves** (see 1 Ne. 19:23). Some people start by choosing a subject in the Topical Guide that they need to know more about. Or they start at the beginning of a book of scripture and look for specific teachings as they read through.

For instance, when I was called to serve as a Young Women leader, I bought a new set of scriptures, and as I read and marked those scriptures, I looked for things that would help me in my calling. Sometimes I put colored pieces of paper in my scriptures so I have quick access to topics or themes I am studying. I have paper tabs in my scriptures for many of my favorite verses about repentance and the Atonement so I can find them easily as I ponder during the sacrament each week. I usually make notes about what I am learning. **Sometimes I keep those notes in my scriptures, and sometimes I write what I am learning in a separate notebook.**

Once in a while I invest in a new copy of the Book of Mormon. When I start reading that new book, I make notes in the margins so I have a record of what I am learning as I study. To help me remember what I am learning, **I draw lines to connect ideas. I shade verses and underline key words. When I find ideas that relate to each other, I make a scripture chain to link those ideas** (see "Scripture Linking," Teaching, No Greater Call [1999], 58). **I like to think of my scriptures as a workbook, so sometimes I record where I was when I gained an insight or the name of the person who taught me.** That way the experience is refreshed in my memory when I read that passage again.

Many of you study foreign languages. You might like to start reading the Book of Mormon in another language. **When you read the scriptures in another language, you learn what the words mean in a new way. Some people start by finding answers to their questions.** They want to know who they are and what they should be doing with their lives. **A friend of mine suggested that I start looking for questions that the Lord asks us in the scriptures and ponder them** (see John S. Tanner, "Responding to the Lord's Questions," *Ensign*, Apr. 2002, 26). Since then I have discovered many important questions such as "What desirest thou?" ([1 Ne. 11:2](#)) and "What think ye of Christ?" ([Matt. 22:42](#)). I keep a list of those questions in the back of my scriptures. I often choose one to think about in quiet moments because pondering enlightens my mind that I "might understand the scriptures" ([Luke 24:45](#)). When I do not have my scriptures nearby, then I start my study by reviewing teachings I have memorized. By reciting the Articles of Faith or other verses to myself, I am able to keep them in my memory bank."

12) [Search the Scriptures for Specifics by Elder L. Lionel Kendrick](#)

In April 1993 General Conference, Elder Kendrick shared some ideas on scripture study and mentioned this with regard to searching. Try identifying a purpose before your scripture study session. Then as you study, try to make a list of principles you found, doctrines they relate to, come up with questions those principles address. Dig everything you can out of them.

“To search is to seek, to explore, to examine carefully. As we study we should **do so with purpose, searching for specifics and an expansion of our vision of eternal truth. We must search for principles, doctrines, answers to questions, and solutions to problems.** We should **look for doctrinal relationships** and for possible **hidden meanings** of that which has been recorded.”

13) [Read with a Question in Mind by Elder Peter Johnson](#)

In his October 2019 General Conference talk, “Power to overcome the adversary,” Elder Johnson mentions this study technique.

“**My Book of Mormon studies tend to go better when I read with a question in mind. As we read with a question, we can receive revelation** and recognize that the Prophet Joseph Smith spoke truth when he declared, ‘The Book of Mormon [is] the most correct of any book on earth, ... and a man [or a woman will] get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.’”

14) [Sometimes a Single Verse is a Study Session by Elder Howard W. Hunter](#)

“We should not be haphazard in our reading but rather develop a systematic plan for study. There are some who read to a schedule of a number of pages or a set number of chapters each day or week. This may be perfectly justifiable and may be enjoyable if one is reading for pleasure, but it does not constitute meaningful study. It is better to have a set amount of time to give scriptural study each day than to have a set amount of chapters to read. Sometimes we find that the study of a single verse will occupy the whole time.”

Other Techniques I have used to have a fresh view of the scriptures

15) Monotony – Repeat Reading

There have been several times in my life when I really wanted to get more out of a section of scripture. A few that come to mind are segments on the priesthood in D&C 84 and 121, some of the Savior's teachings in 3 Nephi, and the amazing content of D&C 93. For those sections or chapters, I have on occasion, read them every day for several days to allow the things I easily notice to become monotonous and only the new things stand out. Sometimes I read it in my mind (or maybe out loud but quietly 😊) in different ways to see what jumps out at me if I emphasize different words. The ponderize method suggested by Elder Durrant (item 4 above) uses this method as well. The more you repeat it, the more your mind looks for something new.

16) Reading Slow – Micro-reading – Dig Deep

There are many verses in scripture that contain the “hidden truths” we love to find. Sometimes a word as small and insignificant as “a” or “the” can jump out at us in a new way and identify a whole new way of looking at something. Sometimes it's a plural form of a word that we skip over because our brain isn't fully engaged. I can think of one verse I'd read many times and then one day I had a whole new epiphany about it, seeing a word that was plural and not singular, which opened my mind to a concept I'd never even considered before. Read the text slower and watch for when something doesn't make sense. It's not a typo. 😊 The scriptures really mean what they say.

17) Reading Fast – Macro-reading – Get the Flow

Opposite to the last technique, reading fast can also be beneficial at times. This is where skimming and skipping come in which was mentioned at the beginning of this paper. Going fast over a story, you can record the things that happened as part of a macro overview of the story and then look for parallels to other principles. For example, Nephi's journey to the promised land can be seen as a macro view of our lives. Here's one way of viewing the story of Nephi's journey as shared in a podcast by retired CES instructor Mike Stroud.

Left Jerusalem: Premortal life

3 days journey: Passing through the veil descending into mortality

Wilderness: Mortality in the telestial world

Returned to Jerusalem: Led by the Holy Ghost to obtain heavenly knowledge

Returned to their family in the wilderness: Suffered in mortality

Took 8 years to get from Jerusalem to Bountiful: age 8 for baptism to cross the waters

Ship: Symbol of the atonement to pass over dangerous waters

Large waters: Further dangers that separate us from the promised land

Promised land: Obtained heaven in the Celestial kingdom

Pretty neat, eh? Or you can just chalk that up to being a very clever coincidence by the author... 😊

18) Quote connecting

Find a great quote of some kind and put it into a Collection Note (in Scripture Notes). Now try to find all the verses that are relevant to that quote and store them in the collection of verses.

19) Power Pondering – Break it Down

Take a verse and closely examine every word and phrase. Write down all the questions you can possibly come up with for that verse. Then seek to answer them including by study, and by faith (in prayer asking for revelation).

20) What Does the Verse Answer?

Take a verse and write down all the questions you can think of that that verse answers. What are the questions someone could ask that will make this verse an incredible find for them?

21) Diagramming Doctrine

This is a powerful technique for really trying to understand related doctrines. Take for example a topic like priesthood. Now use an art program or something that lets you diagram and search the scriptures for all the cool stuff you can find about it. Make a diagram on the way it works.



22) Scriptures by Audio

Are you a reader but not a listener? Sometimes listening to someone else read the scriptures can make things jump out at you. Pay attention and remember the things you hear and go back and study them. Use your cell phone recorder to help you remember.

23) Other Commentary (Book/Audio/Video/Blog/Class)

Lets face it, sometimes it's just wonderful to be spared all that time searching the scriptures and read what someone else has prepared. Grab all the insights you can from books, audios, videos, a blog, or an institute or seminary class. Then store those insights in Scripture Notes along with a link to where you got that insight.

24) Marking up scriptures

Who doesn't like shading in the scriptures? My very old seminary scriptures have some lovely marking patterns. Scripture Notes lets you mark up verses in new ways. You can change the text color in addition to highlighting, and you can bold, italicize, and underline. More methods will be coming in the future. Marking your scriptures makes your most important points stand out. Sometimes people will delay marking their scriptures till they settle on a schema for what every color means. There are lots of ideas out there. If you check Pinterest and do a search for "scripture marking ideas," or "color coding scriptures," you'll have plenty to choose from. I recommend you just start with something and refine it

as you go. Eventually, Scripture Notes will allow you to start over with a new set of markings so you aren't stuck with a single set for the life of your digital scriptures.

25) Revelation Journaling

Next to every verse in Scripture Notes is a box where you can type as many notes as you want about a verse. You can record your thoughts and impressions, revelation and inspiration, and break down the verse however you want. The key is to write till you gain insight. Ask questions and write them down along with the answers. Get it all out so the Lord can give you new ideas.

26) [Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#)

Noah Webster was an amazing individual. He produced an American dictionary in 1828 to preserve the meaning of the words used in the U.S. Constitution as well as the Bible. This free dictionary online is perfect for looking up the meaning of words from the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants (and anything else) because it's the language and meanings Joseph Smith used during his life. Take a verse you love or short segment of verses and look up the major meanings of the words in Webster's dictionary.

27) [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible](#)

James Strong is another amazing individual who took on the laborious effort to catalog all the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) words in the Bible. This resource lets you find the original meaning of words which isn't always clear from the word used in translation. Try taking a difficult verse in the Bible and look up the meanings of all the words using this resource. Write down different ways the verse could be understood.

28) [LDS Citation Index](#)

The LDS Citation Index is a tool that you can use to really dig into a verse and see every statement ever made about that verse from General Conferences and more. It's a free project of a couple BYU professors and I believe a team of student programmers. Next time you want to understand a verse, look at all the statements made about it by prophets.

29) [Joseph Smith's Inspired Translation \(JST\)](#)

Joseph Smith went through the Bible a few times before he was murdered, working on an inspired set of improvements to the text. The scriptures used by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints contains a section at the back labeled JST which includes a number of important passages, but not all that ones Joseph made. This link above will get you all of them. When you're stuck on a Bible verse, check and see if there's a JST for that verse. If not, try ideas 26-28.

30) [Search Engines](#)

Search engines are very helpful for finding quotes and even scriptures when you think you remember a verse but can't quite put your finger on it doing a search in your favorite scripture tool. Search engines have indexed different versions of the Bible and typing a verse as you remember it may turn up the verse even if it's not a perfect recollection. You can also find some great things by simply asking questions. Click the link above for more information.

31) [Isaiah](#)

Some of the greatest scripture study you'll ever do will be in seeking to understand the words of Isaiah. There are lots of resources available to help with a study of Isaiah. Here's a few of my favorites when you're ready to start that search. Putting the time in with some good resources will open up a whole new world of understanding. Make a study of all the other people that quote Isaiah and what they are trying to teach by quoting a segment of his writings.

32) [Other Translations of the Bible](#)

It can be helpful when we encounter a difficult passage in the Bible to first check if there is a JST correction to the verse, and secondly to go to other translations of the Bible and see if there is some additional clarity on the passage. I have found this particularly useful with some of Paul's writings in the New Testament.

33) Study a Specific Person

Pick a character in the scriptures and read all about that person. Look for traits about their character. Try to imagine what kind of person they were. Look for parallels from their life to the life of the Savior (or the devil if they are an evil character).

34) Study with a Friend or Family Member in Mind

Do you ever have a friend or family member in need? You may find it helpful to look for verses that might pick them up. Maybe they have a major life challenge or concern that could be lightened with the right set of verses to teach and edify them.

35) Rewrite the Verse

Sometimes you come across a difficult verse to understand. I like to put it in my own words and record that in the basic note area of my Scripture Notes for the verse.

36) Watch for Pronouns – footnote them

Using Scripture Notes makes this easy, but even in paper scriptures you can do this. Look closely at verses that contain pronouns like they, them, us, our, theirs, etc... Identify the proper subject of who that word is referring to and make a footnote on that word as to who it is.

37) Outline chapters

In Scripture Notes, open the same chapter twice in side-by-side panes. In one click into the chapter heading note field. In the other read down through the chapter and as you summarize it, make notes in the heading field of the other pane as to the flow of concepts in the chapter. You can also create an outline of a sermon and store it either in a collection note, or just basic verse notes at the beginning of sermons.

38) [Study by numbers and colors](#)

You know those “Paint by Number” books that print a number in sections of a drawing outline to tell you what color of paint to use there to make the picture turn out as they designed it? The scriptures are full of numbers and also paint pictures. Looking for symbolic meaning is fun and enlightening. You’ve probably heard of some numbers meaning certain things. Understanding the meanings of numbers and colors can add greater depth to your study. It’s always appropriate when you see numbers and colors to ask if it’s a figurative (has meaning) or literal (actual number) representation of something. Often it’s both. Click the link above to go to a page with the meaning of numbers and colors in scripture along with some interesting examples.

39) Intent to teach (verse simplification)

Whether you are a teacher right now or not, we are all teaching others in numerous ways because we are disciples of the master teacher. Studying with the intent to teach something (even if you’re not preparing a lesson at that time), is a great way to approach your study. Open up Powerpoint or Keynote and design a lesson around a difficult subject. How would you organize the thoughts and reduce difficult concepts down to more simplified ones? How can you take a tricky verse to understand, and simplify it to explain it to a 5-year old? If you have small children or grandchildren, practice on them. Simplify and teach them something to improve your skills.

40) Gospel metaphors and similes

Lets start with the definitions here. A simile is something that is related to something else using the words “like” or “as”. A metaphor is an implicit or implied comparison of two things without the comparison being related. There are just common characteristics.

For example, “the lamb of God” is a metaphorical reference to Jesus Christ, not because he is a lamb, but because he has characteristics of a lamb and it draws our attention to the purpose for which lambs are sacrificed in similitude of Christ’s sacrifice.

An example of a scriptural simile, would be the reference to the Lamanite army that “they did fight like dragons.” The word dragons doesn’t naturally draw your attention to Lamanites, but it does to fierceness and power. The simile shown here implies that the Lamanites were sharing this characteristic with dragons in the way they were fighting.

As you read the scriptures, try to think of similes and metaphors for things that represent what you are reading. Record your ideas in your Scripture Notes verse notes or start a collection note of interesting discoveries you make.

41) Looking for lists and patterns

There are lots of lists in the scriptures, but especially in the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants. Any time you see an author declare something that has requirements or instructions with it, you are looking at a list. For example, what does King Benjamin say about getting rid of the natural man in Mosiah 3:19? The instructions are:

- Yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit
- Put off the natural man and become a saint through the atonement of Christ
- Become as a child
 - Submissive
 - Meek
 - Humble
 - Patient
 - Full of love
 - Willing to submit to all things the Lord sees fit to inflict upon him even as a child submits to his father

Having this list then gives us multiple areas of study to better understand these concepts by topic. That gives us greater power to live these principles.

Sometimes these lists can span a bigger area such as multiple verses or chapters. In Alma 30, and two other chapters in the Book of Mormon, you can study the characteristics and behaviors of anti-Christ's and seek to understand better how to spot them by understanding the pattern of how they operate.

42) Substitute your name

In many areas of the scriptures, you can substitute your name in place of another name that appears in that verse. This is particularly true when instructions are given or blessings are promised (and yes, scriptures where someone is cursed as well if you engage in the same behavior that generated the cursing).

All blessings and promises, cursings and punishments, are available to any person because God is no respecter of persons. Look for those things in the scriptures and apply them to yourself. See the Inductive application next for a way to apply principles.

43) Inductive application

An inductive process is one in which you go from general observations to more specific things where you can draw a conclusion. The ultimate purpose of this is to look for applications of the scriptures to our own lives. For example, when reading a verse you first identify what it says (observe), then what it means (interpretation), and lastly what it means for our lives (application). Try this out with the Sermon on the Mount, or King Benjamin's sermon and make a list of the applications of what you learn in the verses.

44) Deductive study

This method is a little more risky than others. The method calls for starting with a doctrinal point and looking for support for it in the scriptures. This is similar to asking questions and looking for answers, but it's not always the case. I have seen people online try to justify a position by using a verse or two they find in support of that position, but don't use those verses in context or take into account all the verses pertaining to the topic which may contradict their cherry-picked verses. Aside from that danger, it's totally appropriate to approach the scriptures looking for support for an idea, as long as we remain open minded and make sure our quest is a humble quest for truth which may ultimately contradict our preconceived notions.

45) Dinner Discussions

Get a mental picture of your family and their needs in mind. Then as you study each day, look for one thing that you think relates to your family's needs. Write it down to be able to share it at the dinner table that night with your family as "something interesting you learned while reading your scriptures" that day. Encourage them to do it as well and share something they learned.

46) Form a Sharing Group

Consider a small group of friends (or a social media group) that studies a topic or a few verses a week and shares something with the group. Maybe assign one person a day to share or let everyone share one thing they learned that day with the group. Benefit from each other's research and insights.

47) Combine techniques

One of the more interesting books I read a decade ago is “The Hidden Christ: Beneath the Surface of the Old Testament” by James Ferrell. He made a study of Old Testament prophets take on a new dimension by combining a study of people, with a macro view to compare their lives to Christ. In doing so he identified many insights that really bring out the parallels between these prophets and how events or characteristics in their lives match up with Christ’s life. Try combining techniques for fun new ways to study the scriptures. It’s like mixing chocolate and peanut butter!

48) Use Scripture Notes

Scripture Notes introduces a whole new dimension to scripture study. With this powerful tool you can do things to study the scriptures that aren’t available anywhere else.

- Do powerful text searches with qualifiers
- View search results in context by adding the previous or next verses instead of opening up an entire chapter
- Remove irrelevant search results
- Reframe your search query in the results pane to make them more accurate
- Save your edited search results as a collection and write a master note on the verse collection
- Every verse has a basic note with it that supports unlimited notes
- Tag and categorize collection notes to create your own topical guide
- See your study history of chapters accessed, collection notes created, and searches performed
- Content from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has been licensed and is being incorporated including footnotes, topical guide, Bible dictionary, JST, maps, and of course, the scriptures themselves
- More content and features coming...

If you have read through this entire PDF, congratulations. I wrote this because over the years it’s been helpful to try different things to approach my scripture study with. Fresh views and powerful tools have made a tremendous difference in understanding God’s words to us. It’s one of the reasons I created ScriptureNotes.com. I wanted more powerful tools that were really simple to use. ***I hope you will sign up for the free trial and experience the increased power it brings to your study of the scriptures.*** The tutorials, resources, and study topic posts (and emails) are designed to help you get the most out of your scripture study while teaching something interesting. ***Sign up today. Your scripture study may never be boring to you again. :)***

