

How to Study the Bible for Yourself

Right Brain Bible Study

The human brain is an intricate organ. At approximately 3 pounds, it contains about 100 billion neurons and 100 trillion connections.

Your brain is divided into two halves, or hemispheres. Within each half, particular regions control certain functions.

The two sides of your brain look very much alike, but they process information very differently. Despite their contrasting styles, the two halves of your brain don't work independently of each other. They are connected by the Corpus Callosum which is a bundle of nerve fibers.

In the 1960s a psychobiologist by the name of Roger W. Sperry hypothesized that the different hemispheres of the brain processed different information.

Sperry said that the left brain is more verbal, analytical, and orderly than the right brain. It's sometimes called the digital brain. It's better at things like reading, writing, and computations.

According to Sperry's dated research, the left brain is also connected to:

- logic, sequencing, linear thinking, mathematics, facts, and thinking in words.

Sperry went on to say that the right brain is more visual and intuitive. It's sometimes referred to as the analog brain. It has a more creative and less organized way of thinking.

Sperry Suggested that the right brain is also connected to:

- imagination, holistic thinking, intuition, arts, rhythm, nonverbal cues, feelings visualization, daydreaming

Recently a team of neuroscientists set out to test this premise. After a two-year analysis, they found no proof that this theory is correct. Magnetic resonance imaging of 1,000 people revealed that the human brain doesn't actually favor one side over the other. The networks on one side aren't generally stronger than the networks on the other side.

The two hemispheres are tied together by bundles of nerve fibers (Corpus Callosum), creating an information highway. Although the two sides function differently, they work together and complement each other. You don't use only one side of your brain at a time.

Still, it's a fact that the two sides of your brain are different, and certain areas of your brain do have specialties. The exact areas of some functions can vary a bit from person to person.

QUESTION – How does this relate to bible study?

ANSWER – We usually think of bible study as (what we used to say) “left brained” activity.

- (Words, sentence structure, literary structure, word searches, hermeneutics, etc.).

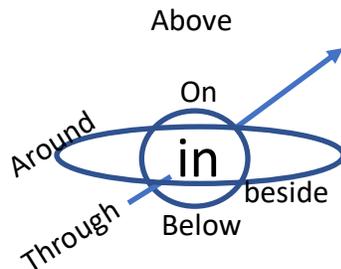
KEY POINT – There is an aspect of bible study that diverges vastly from this type of cognitive approach, and seeks to understand things in a visual-spatial sort of way.

VSL – Visual Spatial Learner – 1/3 of students in a classroom are visual-spatial learners. Visual-spatial learners think in images and see big ideas as a whole, rather than the sum of their parts. In comparison, auditory-sequential learners think in words and process new ideas one step at a time.

OBJECTIVE - So today I'm going to demonstrate how to take a bible passage and diagram it out in a pictorial way.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the passage carefully, paying attention to:
 - a. Objects
 - b. Verbs
 - c. Prepositions
2. Whatever we draw must come directly out of the text (exegesis).
 - a. Your picture will be different than mine, but it must be based on the text
 - i. Illustration – Give text & paper to five individuals – 5 different pictures
 - ii. BUT.... If I ask them to repeat back what they learned from the text, I should get the same essential idea from all five.
 - b. KEY - Use the language to give you hints on what to draw and how to draw.
3. Use correct special orientation on your paper
 - a. Vertical Spacing
 - i. Heaven – Top of page
 - ii. Earth – Bottom of page
 - b. Horizontal Spacing
 - i. Left side (earlier in time) - Right side (later in time)
 - ii. Process, Progress
 - c. Prepositions – pay careful attention to prepositions.



4. Use symbols
 - a. Basic Circles, rectangles, triangles, Arrows
 - b. Complex – Heart, Clouds, Lightning bolts, Pointing hands, doors
5. Use Labels
 - a. Use Labels to identify things easily
6. Use Color
7. Keep an eraser handy and don't be afraid to modify your picture
 - a. Pencil vs. Pen
8. When you are complete it is good to draw it again
 - a. Helps to cement it in your mind
 - b. You will learn new things the second time through

NOTES of CAUTION

1. Not every word make's it into the picture. Get the Big picture.
2. Keep it to two dimensional. We can become so engrossed in the picture that we lose track of the text.