

The Gold Panning System

A step-by-step method for studying
the Bible

by Ken Lawrence



FAMILY GRAVITYTM
HOLDING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Family Gravity Media
Norwood, CO 81423
www.FamilyGravity.com

The Gold Panning System

The Gold Panning System

Published by Family Gravity Media

Norwood, CO 81423

www.FamilyGravity.com

Copyright © 2012-2020 Ken Lawrence

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

ISBN 978-0-9786458-1-6

Unless otherwise noted all scripture references are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Bold emphasis in scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis.

The Gold Panning System

Dedications

*All glory and honor to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
It is only through Him that this book is possible.*

*To Chris,
My beautiful bride, encourager and best friend.*

The Gold Panning System

Contents

You Can Understand the Bible	1
The Simplicity of Scripture	5
The Power of the Holy Spirit	11
The Gold Panning System	17
The Gold Panning Sheet	31
The Gold Panning System as a Group Study	35
An Alternate Method	41
Examples	43
Your Turn	61
Concluding Remarks	123
References	125
About the Author	127

The Gold Panning System

You Can Understand the Bible

Imagine for a moment that a political party hostile to Christians has taken over your country. Little by little they begin to take away your Christian freedoms. Finally they outlaw the Bible and persecute anyone who owns or reads the Bible.

They block all internet access to any site that contains the Bible and anything to do with Christianity. They conduct house to house searches and confiscate all the Bibles they can. One day they burst into your house and remove every Bible you own. How would losing all access to God's Word affect your life? Would it have any impact on your life whatsoever?

Sadly, for far too many people losing access to the Bible would have little or no impact on their life because even though they may own one or more Bibles, they rarely if ever read it. One of the reasons people give for not reading the Bible is they believe it is too difficult to understand. This is a falsehood that has its roots in church history.

In the Middle Ages the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church forbade laity, or "common people," to own or even read Bibles. During the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century both the Roman

Catholic Church and the Church of England persecuted Reformers who printed or distributed Bibles in the “common tongue.”

William Tyndale, who was the first to publish a complete English language Bible based on the original Hebrew and Greek texts, was put to death by the church for his efforts to get God’s Word into the hands of the masses. Church leaders believed only priests and church leaders were intelligent enough to read and understand God’s Word.

They believed it was their responsibility to determine what the Bible said and then tell the common people what it said and how to apply it to their life. Church leaders believed the Bible was too complicated for common folks to understand.

Today we have free access to God’s Word in virtually any language. For English speaking people you can read the Bible in several translations. There are King James, New King James, New American Standard, English Standard Version, New International Version, and New Living Translation, and on and on it goes.

Ministries such as The Gideons International distribute Bibles for free all around the world. The Gideons publish Bibles in over 90 languages. The Bible is available for free on websites such as BibleGateway.com and Bible.com. Audio versions

of the Bible are available online at Bible.is.

Sadly, even though we have ready access to the Bible there are still people today who will not read it because they think the Bible is too difficult for them to read and understand. Many people are afraid to open their Bible because they believe that you have to be a minister, priest or Bible scholar to understand it.

That thinking is completely wrong! Anyone can read and understand the Bible. In the pages of this book lies a proven system that anyone who can read can use to gain understanding from God's Word. It is called "The Gold Panning System."

I have used the Gold Panning System with my six year old son, with a 75 year old lady, and people of all ages in between. I have taught this system in the United States and in remote parts of India. The Gold Panning System allows anyone to read the Bible and get at least one lesson from every section of scripture they read. The most common comment I receive from people I have taught the Gold Panning System to is that they are learning so much more from the Bible than they ever have learned before.

The Gold Panning System

This system relies on two factors. It relies on the simplicity of scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, after reading this book, you will see for yourself that you can understand the Bible.

NOTES

The Simplicity of Scripture

The Bible is God's Word to us, His children. It is written to all of His children regardless of their social status, nationality or level of education. It is at the same time simple enough for a child to understand and yet complex enough for the theologian to spend a lifetime digesting.

God uses the Bible to reveal Himself to us. God wants us to know Him. He wants to have a real, personal relationship with each one of us. Doesn't it make sense that He has written the Bible for us in such a way that we all can learn something from it?

The Apostle Paul wrote about God's Word to his disciple, Timothy. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Paul wrote:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God gave us the Bible to be profitable to whoever reads it. It is the most profitable gold mine in the world. It can only be profitable if the reader can understand it. God wants us to understand His Word. He wants us to apply it to our everyday life.

In it we are taught doctrine, we are reproofed and corrected. In the Bible we are instructed in righteousness. God gave us the Bible to thoroughly equip us for every good work. How can we be thoroughly equipped if we cannot understand the Bible?

The Bible is simple enough for anyone to understand and apply to their life. Please do not misunderstand. I am not saying that everything in the Bible is plain and simple. The Bible is simple and yet complex all at the same time. It is simple enough for a child to read and understand at their level and yet complex enough to keep a Bible scholar studying for a lifetime. Gregory the Great said this of the complexity and simplicity of the Bible:

“For as the word of God, by the mysteries which it contains, exercises the understanding of the wise, so usually by what presents itself on the outside, it nurses the simpleminded. It presenteth in open day that wherewith the little ones may be fed; it keepeth in secret that whereby men of a loftier range may be held in suspense of admiration. It is, as it were, a kind of river, if I may so liken it, which is both shallow and deep, wherein both the lamb may find a footing, and the elephant float at large.”¹

The Gold Panning System

I like that illustration of the simplicity yet complexity of the Bible. In my own words I would state Gregory the Great's thoughts as follows:

*The Bible is like a river, both shallow and deep,
in which both a lamb may wade and an
elephant may swim.*

In the Gold Panning System we will go to the river and pan for the gold nuggets of truth the Lord has placed there for us to find. Like prospectors during the Gold Rush in the western United States, we will use tools to sift through the sand of the river to find a few gold nuggets we can apply to our life.

The Gold Panning System is a very simple method of studying the Bible. Whether you are a lamb wading your way through the Bible or an elephant swimming in its depths, you can use this system to find the nuggets of gold God has placed there for you.

This system is not intended to be used for an exhaustive, detailed study of the depths of the Bible. It is not intended to be used to find every possible aspect of a passage of scripture.

Instead, this system is intended to be used to find just a few nuggets of gold in any passage of scripture you may be studying. By "nuggets of gold" I mean some piece of practical wisdom that

God has hidden in His Word for you to find that applies to your life situation at that moment.

One of the amazing characteristics of the Bible is its ability to speak truths to the reader that apply to their specific situation. One can read a section of scripture one year and learn one lesson from it and read the exact same section a year later, under different life circumstances, and learn a completely different lesson.

Several people can read the same section of scripture and each can learn a lesson that is unique to their life situations. Using the Gold Panning System in a group really brings this point out.

Let me be clear. I am not saying that the truths in God's Word change. God's Word is the absolute truth and authority for your life. His truth is unchanging. We are not free to interpret the truth of God's Word however we want as dictated by our present situation.

The Bible is the most unique book in the world. It is simple yet complex. It speaks to us today right where we are and yet has answers to problems we will face in the future as well. That is why it is so important for Christians to read the Bible continuously throughout our lives.

The Gold Panning System

The Gold Panning System relies on this special simplicity of scripture to guide you systematically through your Bible studies to find the nuggets of gold God has placed there to help you through your particular struggles of life as He transforms you into the likeness of Christ.

The second factor the Gold Panning System relies upon is the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gold Panning System

NOTES

The Power of the Holy Spirit

The key to the simplicity of scripture does not lie in our own mental prowess. The key to understanding scripture lies in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can truly understand anything God is telling us.

In John 16:12-14 Jesus tells us that one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to help us understand God's truth.

*"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, **for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.**"*

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that you will rely on as you implement the Gold Panning System to study the Bible. Jesus tells us that it is the Holy Spirit's job to guide us into all truth.

When we study the Bible we are reading God's truth, so doesn't it make sense that we should yield

our study to the power of the Holy Spirit as our guide? Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will find ourselves as lambs drowning in the deepest parts of the river that Gregory the Great told us about.

God has given us the Bible to reveal Himself to us. He wants us to understand it and He has given us the Holy Spirit as our guide and helper to do just that, to understand the truths He has placed for us in the Bible.

In John 14:15-17 Jesus said:

*"If you love Me, keep My commandments.
16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

In the Gold Panning System we rely solely upon the power of the Holy Spirit. For this reason I want to ask that you not use any Bible commentaries, the internet, or any other Bible study aids while using this system. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you directly as you study the Bible. He will help you figure out what the Lord is saying to you.

The Gold Panning System

There is a time to use commentaries and other study aids but it is only after you have received God's message to you through the power of the Holy Spirit. After you have finished gleaning the gold nuggets from your study, you may have questions about specific parts of the passage you are studying. As part of the system you will write those questions down for possible further study. After you have finished the rest of the Gold Panning System process and worked on your nuggets then you can turn to Bible commentaries, the internet, and other Bible study aids to help you answer those questions.

Bible commentaries and other study aids tell you what the Holy Spirit has revealed to someone else. The authors of Bible commentaries are usually Bible scholars who are highly educated and have devoted their life to studying the Bible. They are the elephants who swim in the river of God's Word. They have a lot of information to add to the discussion but their words are not scripture.

Bible commentaries, dictionaries, and other Bible study aids are great at educating you about historical facts and traditions about which you may not be aware. Understanding these facts can add to your understanding of the culture of Bible times and further understand the meaning of specific scriptures.

The Gold Panning System

Learning from what the Holy Spirit has revealed to others can be very enlightening and help fill out your own understanding of a particular passage of scripture. That is why I recommend using the Gold Panning System in a small group. As you share with others your nuggets and you hear what others learned, you get to see different perspectives on the same passage.

However, you should only expose yourself to the insights of others after you have allowed the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally. After all, that is the Holy Spirit's job. The Gold Panning System is based on this important fact. I firmly believe that God will speak to you personally through His Word and use the power of the Holy Spirit to guide you to the truths He has put there in the Bible just for you. I have experienced this in my own life and have seen it in the lives of those to whom I have taught this system.

So the process I want you to stick with as you use the Gold Panning System is first rely on the power of the Holy Spirit on a one-on-one basis. It will be just you and the Holy Spirit panning for the gold nuggets in God's Word. After you have worked through the system completely with just you and the Holy Spirit, then, and only then, should you turn to other Bible study helps and more mature Christians to further your understanding or answer questions you may still have. The Holy

The Gold Panning System

Spirit will use those outside guides within the context of what He has already revealed to you.

Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as your guide in your study of the Bible and you will be able to say as King David did in Psalm 23:

The Lord (Holy Spirit) is my shepherd; I shall not want....He leads me beside the still waters...He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

So with these key factors in mind, the simplicity of scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit, let us delve into the five steps of the Gold Panning System of Bible study.

The Gold Panning System

NOTES

The Gold Panning System

The Gold Panning System of Bible study consists of five steps. Systematically following these five steps will allow you to discover some nuggets of truth in any part of scripture you may be studying. These steps are based on the belief that God has given us the Bible as one way to reveal His truth to us. The truths in the Bible reveal something about the triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), something about us, or something about the world around us. The five steps of the Gold Panning System are:

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

In this section we will look at each step in detail.

1. Pray

The first step in the Gold Panning System is to pray. Before opening your Bible, pray that God will speak to you through His Word. Tell God you really want to learn what He has to tell you today. Ask Him to let His Holy Spirit guide you through your study. As covered in the previous section, one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to help us understand God's truth.

The Holy Spirit will take God's Word that you are about to read and declare the truth of it to you. As you begin your study, yield yourself to the

leading of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the lesson He wants you to learn from His Word.

In Matthew 7:7-11 Jesus tells us that He will answer the prayer of those who seek Him.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

In Hebrews 11:6 we are told:

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

God will reward those who diligently seek Him. He wants to reveal Himself to us. Before you begin studying the Bible go to God in prayer. Let Him know that you are seeking Him. Let Him know that you desire to know Him more. Ask Him to open

your heart and mind to receive whatever He wants to reveal to you through His Word.

Believe that God's Word is true and He will answer your prayer. Seek Him in His Word and you will find Him. Knock on His Word and He will open it to you. Begin your study of the Bible with this kind of seeking prayer and you will understand the Bible like never before!

2. Underline

The second step in the Gold Panning System is to underline as you read. Whenever you study the Bible always have a pencil in hand as you read the passage through the first time. As you read, underline anything that seems important or meaningful to you.

If you are studying on your own I recommend you study one complete chapter from a book of the Bible at a time. If you are in a group you may be assigned a passage that is just part of a chapter and that is fine. I do not recommend you study more than one chapter at a time. You do not want to miss any gold nuggets of truth trying to cover too much material at one time.

In Step One you pray that God will allow the power of the Holy Spirit to guide you into the truth He wants you to learn. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to underline anything that seems

important. By important I mean something that is speaking to a situation that you may be facing, something that seems to contain a lesson you should learn, or anything that you feel the Holy Spirit is prompting you to underline.

Do not try to figure out what it means; just underline anything that strikes you as important at that moment the first time through. In later steps you will go back and sift through what you have underlined. In this step the important thing is to underline anything that seems valuable to you.

When you are finished you may have almost everything underlined or you may have underlined just one or two things. Whatever you have underlined is okay, as long as you underlined something. There is no right or wrong thing to underline so do not worry about finding the “right answer.”

If you have read through the passage of scripture and did not find anything to underline, then go back and read it again looking for nuggets. If you still cannot find anything to underline, go back to Step One and pray once again for guidance.

Once you have prayed again, read through the passage slowly looking for nuggets. If you still have difficulty finding something to underline you can adapt the underlining step so that you underline

things that specifically answer the questions from Step Five. See the Alternate Method section of this book for more details.

3. Select

The third step is to select your gold nugget. Once you have read through the passage and underlined at least one part, go back and re-read everything you underlined. Select the underlined item or items that seem the most meaningful to you. If there are a group of verses that you have underlined that have a common theme, you may want to select those as your “gold nugget” verses.

You may want to look for words that are repeated throughout the passage. That word or words may be pointing you to a theme or common thread you can investigate further as your gold nuggets.

If there is one particular verse or group of verses that hits something you are dealing with in your life right now, that could be your nugget.

You are sifting through the passage looking for just one or two nuggets to study further. Remember, there is no right or wrong selection. You can select anything in the passage that you feel God is speaking to you through. This is your gold nugget.

Once you become proficient at this method you can pick several nuggets from each passage or even take everything you underlined and run them all through the system. At the beginning, however, it is best if you limit yourself to just one or two nuggets. Remember, this system is not about learning everything you can possibly learn from a passage before moving on. It is about finding the nuggets of truth God has placed there for you to find today. You can always go back and mine this passage of scripture again later.

To help you see what gold nuggets might look like I have included several examples in the Examples section of this book.

4. Write

Step Four in the system is to write down the gold nuggets you have selected on a Gold Panning Sheet. Be sure to write the date you are doing your study and the passage reference (book and chapter) at the top of the Gold Panning Sheet. See the Gold Panning Sheet section for an example of what a Gold Panning Sheet looks like.

In the section titled “Gold Nugget Verses” write down your nuggets. Depending on how long your nugget is you can either write just the reference (i.e. verse number), the reference and a few key words so you remember what it was about that nugget you were focusing on, or the reference and the entire

text of the nugget. See the Examples section of the book for more details.

The key thing is to write down your gold nuggets. These are the nuggets that you will be answering questions about to help you learn lessons from the portion of scripture you are studying.

5. Answer

Step Five is to look at your gold nugget verses and answer one or more of the following questions about them. These questions come from the premise that God has given us the Bible to reveal to us something about Himself, something about us, and/or something about the world around us.

Ask yourself the following questions:

About God (Father, Son or Holy Spirit):

What do I learn about what God is like?

What is God doing in the world?

About Yourself or the world around you:

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Are there any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System

You may not be able to answer every question for your nuggets. Some nuggets only deal with God so you may not be able to answer any of the questions in the “about yourself” section. Conversely, some nuggets will only deal with yourself or the world around you so you will not be able to answer the questions in the “about God” section. It is okay to leave some questions blank.

Let us look at these questions in more detail. In the first section you will look at your gold nuggets and determine what, if anything, they are teaching you about God. Does this nugget reveal something about God the Father, Jesus the Son, or the Holy Spirit?

The first question to ask yourself is, “What do I learn about what God (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit) is like?” Does this nugget tell me something about His character or personality? For example, your nugget may show that God is loving, He is our provider, or He disciplines His people. Write down anything that your nugget may say about what God the Father, Jesus the Son, or the Holy Spirit is like.

The second question to ask about your nugget is, “What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?” Does your nugget show God’s active involvement in His creation? For example, your nugget may show that God is carrying out His plan of salvation, that He is revealing Himself to the

world, that the Holy Spirit is convicting the world of sin, or that He is working in, through and with those who believe in Him.

With the second set of questions you will look at your gold nuggets and determine what, if anything, they are teaching you about yourself and the world around you.

The first question in this section is, “Is there an example for me to follow?” Examples can be positive or negative. There can be a positive example that God wants you to emulate. Does your nugget include someone who demonstrated great faith? Then the lesson might be that God wants you to learn from that example and have faith like they do.

Examples can also be negative. Does your nugget include someone who did something against God’s will? Then the lesson may be that God wants you to learn from their mistake and not do what they did. What examples might there be in your nugget that you can learn from?

The next question is, “Is there a command for me to obey?” Commands may be explicit “thou shalt” type commands or they be more subtle. In Mark chapter 6, for example, Jesus tells His disciples that they need to get away and rest. While it is not an explicit command that we all need to take a time of

rest, you may list it as an implied command in response to this question.

The next question is, “Is there an important truth for me to believe?” Look at your nugget and summarize what important truth you can learn from it. Is God revealing some important fact of life that I need to be aware of? Maybe you already know the truth being taught. That’s okay; write it down anyway. Important truths may be things like, “God wants my heart” or “To save my life I must lose it.”

The final question in this section is, “What does this mean for my life?” This is the most important question of all because this is where you apply all the other lessons to your life. This is the “so what” question. Now that you have learned what God has for you to learn, how will it change the way you live?

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we are told:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Gold Panning System

God did not give us the Bible so we could obtain head knowledge. He gave us the Bible so we can be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Our study of God's Word should lead us to action.

When answering the question, "What does this mean for my life?" think about what actions need to take place in your life as a result of the lessons you learned from the scripture you just studied. If all you gained from studying the Bible was intellectual knowledge that has no effect on how you conduct your life, you might as well stop studying.

In John 14:15 Jesus said:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

In James 1:22 we are told:

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

In John 15:1-8 Jesus said:

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean **because of the word** which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I*

The Gold Panning System

in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

*⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, **and My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*

Jesus' words abiding in the believer should result in us bearing fruit. Jesus wants His disciples to bear fruit. He wants us to obey His Word and bear fruit that glorifies God.

What will the fruit be from the lessons you just learned from the passage you are studying? What changes need to take place in your life? What are you already doing that you need to continue or do more of? How will you apply the lessons from scripture to your life today, tomorrow and into the future? Write it down and then do it.

Once you have examined your gold nuggets in light of the questions about God and the questions about yourself and the world around you, there is

one last question to answer. The last question is, “Are there any other lessons, comments or questions?”

Sometimes your gold nuggets may not answer the questions in the first two sections or it may have a lesson in addition to the answers to those questions. Write down any additional thoughts, lessons or questions you have. If you have questions about something in the text you are studying, those questions will be the basis of further study using Bible study helps such as Bible commentaries, Bible dictionaries and the internet.

Many times the questions I have from a passage have to do with the history or customs of the people in the passage I am studying. Things like, “Why was it such a big deal that they ran out of wine at the wedding feast of Cana? Why were there money changers in the Temple?” Information like that may not really have anything to do with the lessons I have learned using the Gold Panning System, but the answers may add new insight to the text and give me a new facet on the lessons of the text.

Again let me caution you, please do not look at a Bible commentary or any other Bible study aid until you have finished all the other steps and answered all the other questions in the Gold Panning System. Allow the Holy Spirit to reach you where you are and lead you to the lessons He wants you to learn

The Gold Panning System

before looking at the lessons others have gotten from a passage.

The five steps of the Gold Panning System are relatively easy and can be learned by all members of the family who can read. I encourage you to use the system for your own study and when you have become proficient with it, teach it to your children, your grandchildren, and your friends. Make it a part of your family worship time and watch as each member of the family begins to understand scripture like never before.

The Gold Panning Sheet

To assist you in your use of the Gold Panning System there is a Gold Panning Sheet. An example of the Gold Panning Sheet is shown on the following two pages. At the top of the Gold Panning Sheet is a place for the date and the scripture reference for the portion of scripture you are studying.

Next, the five steps of the Gold Panning System are listed as a reminder. Follow the steps in order. Next there is a section for you to write down your gold nugget verses. List the verse number(s) and all or a portion of the text to remind yourself what the verse says.

Finally, there are three sections with the questions to answer about your gold nugget verses. Each question is followed by blank space in which to write your answers.

The Gold Panning Sheet is a helpful tool to use as part of the Gold Panning System. You can make your own following the example or you can download a pdf file from our website and print your own as you need them:

FamilyGravity.com/GoldPanning

The Gold Panning System

I find it helpful to print the Gold Panning Sheets on pre-punched paper or three-hole punch them and place them in a three-ring binder. This helps keep your Bible study notes organized. You can put together a separate binder for each book of the Bible you study or use tabbed divider pages in a larger notebook.

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System as a Group Study

The Gold Panning System was originally designed as a personal Bible study method. It is a great, systematic approach to Bible study especially for people who have found studying the Bible difficult in the past.

The Gold Panning System has also been successfully used as a group Bible study system. It has been used in at least three different ways with groups.

1. One-on-one Discipleship

The Gold Panning System is an excellent tool to use if you are discipling another individual or couple. It is great for new believers who are just learning how to study the Bible. It is also great for mature Christians as a tool for looking at scripture from a new perspective.

Each person completes a Gold Panning Sheet during the week for the selected scripture. When the disciple and teacher meet, the disciple shares their gold nugget verses and their answers to the questions. The teacher then shares his or her gold nugget verses and answers. If the disciple is having trouble finding nuggets or answering the questions, the teacher can help the disciple learn the system

better by showing how he or she did it.

2. Small Group Study

The Gold Panning System is terrific for Sunday School, Sunday evening, and mid-week Bible study groups. It has been used in a family group with children as young as six years old. With older groups of teens or adults, no teacher is really needed, only a discussion facilitator. Using the system does not require a lot of preparation time for the facilitator other than their own use of the system each week for the passage being studied. No curriculum is needed, just the Bible. It works with any translation of the Bible.

Each student should be given a Gold Panning Sheet with the scripture passage to be studied written in the space on the top. The students are asked to do the Gold Panning System during the week, filling out the Gold Panning Sheet on their own. During the meeting, students share their gold nugget verses and answers with the group. At the end of the meeting a new Gold Panning Sheet with the next week's passage on it is handed out to each student.

3. Family Bible Study

The Gold Panning System is a wonderful Bible study method to use with the entire family for your family devotion/study time. Each member of the family does their own Gold Panning Sheet for the

selected passage. Then during the family time each member of the family shares their gold nugget verses and their answers to the questions.

Each meeting a different family member can go first so everyone has a chance to share during the family study time. Younger family members learn as they hear how the rest of the family did their study. Between meetings, parents or older siblings can help younger children work their way through the system by helping them find nuggets to underline, helping them select their nuggets, and helping them to answer the questions.

The Benefits of Group Study

One of the major benefits of doing the Gold Panning System with a group is each member of the group gets to see the passage being studied through the eyes of the other group members. While often there will be some duplication in group member's nuggets and answers, there are always some differences in the way group members approach the same passage.

Hearing what lessons the other members of the group learned from the passage enhances the learning experience for all members. Rather than just learning the lesson you got out of the text, you learn from all the other students as well.

The Gold Panning System

Working in a group environment, especially with Christians who are more mature in their walk than you, provides an element of protection. If what you think the Bible is saying is in disagreement with the truths of scripture, the mature Christians can gently correct you and point you to other parts of scripture that show you where you might have erred.

Another benefit of doing the Gold Panning System with a group is that you must be able to communicate the lessons you learned from the text to others. In a sense, when you share what you learned from the text, you are taking on the role of teacher. You must understand the lesson well enough to communicate it to others. This helps you (or forces you) to thoroughly think through the answers you have written on the Gold Panning Sheet and what they mean for your life.

It is a well-known fact that the teacher learns more than the student. By being in a situation where you must share what you learned with others, you benefit from the need to solidify the information clearly in your mind before you can communicate it to others. Thus you learn more from the lesson and hopefully will remember it longer than if you did the lesson by yourself.

One final benefit of doing the Gold Panning System with a group is that it helps those who may

The Gold Panning System

be struggling. Sometimes there are students who have a hard time finding anything to underline. They find it difficult finding nuggets so they cannot go on to answer the questions. By hearing the nuggets other students chose, it helps those students learn how to find nuggets on their own next time. Others in the group can encourage them not to give up. Even if a student does not find any nuggets they can still benefit by coming to the group meeting and hearing what others learned.

Doing the Gold Panning System with a group is a real-life experience of Proverbs 27:17 which says:

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”
(NIV)

The Gold Panning System

NOTES

An Alternate Method

I have just laid out the Gold Panning System in step-by-step detail. This system works great for most people. There is a variation of the system that is especially helpful for those having difficulty finding nuggets to underline. It is also a way to dig a little deeper to get even more out of a text.

I recommend you not try this alternate method until you have become proficient with the standard method or until you have tried the standard method for at least three lessons and are having difficulty finding something to underline.

The alternate method only affects the underlining step of the system. Rather than reading and underlining whatever seems important, you instead make two passes through the text looking for specific things.

The first time you read through the passage, underline everything that has to do with God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Look for verses that answer the first set of questions. Look for verses that tell you what God is like, His nature or character. Also look for verses that tell you what God is doing in the world past, present or future.

The Gold Panning System

Once you have underlined every verse that answers the questions about God, pick a few of them or all of them and put them on the Gold Panning Sheet. Now answer the questions about them.

Once you have searched for all information about God and have answered the questions about God, go back and read the passage again. This time underline everything that has to do with you or the world around you. Look for examples to follow, commands to obey, important truths to believe, and applications for your life.

After you have underlined all the verses that have to do with you and the world around you, pick a few of them or all of them as your gold nuggets, write them down on the Gold Panning Sheet, and answer the questions about them.

In the Examples section of this book I have included samples of completed Gold Panning Sheets to help show you how to use the system.

Examples

At my live seminars, I hand out Gold Panning Sheets to every attendee. After teaching the Gold Panning System I then give the attendees hands-on experience using the Gold Panning Sheets with one or two portions of scripture. We go over the completed sheets and allow the attendees to ask questions about the process to ensure that everyone in attendance understands how to use the Gold Panning System and the Gold Panning Sheets before they leave.

Unfortunately I cannot do that in a book. The next best thing I can do is walk you through an example. In the following example, I will go step-by-step through John chapter 3, and show you how to use the Gold Panning System to study this text. After going through this sample text I will conclude by presenting multiple examples of completed Gold Panning Sheets.

John Chapter 3

Step One – Pray. Begin every study with prayer. Pray that God will reveal the lesson He wants you to learn today. Ask Him to speak to you through the power of the Holy Spirit as you read.

The Gold Panning System

Step Two – Underline. With pencil in hand begin reading John chapter 3. As you read, underline anything that seems important to you. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.

For example, I underlined the following verses:

Verse 2: from “...we know that You are a teacher...” to the end.

Verse 3: “unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

All of verses 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 30 and 34.

Step Three – Select. Now that I have several things underlined in the passage, I must go back and select one or two nuggets to study further. While everything I underlined is important (all of scripture is important) I am looking for a few gold nuggets to study. I have selected verses 16 and 17 as my gold nuggets. You may have chosen something else as your gold nuggets and that is fine.

Step Four – Write. Now that I have selected my gold nuggets, I will write them down on the Gold Panning Sheet under the section titled “Gold Nugget Verses.” Since I have selected two full verses I will just write the reference and not the text. As you look at the example Gold Panning Sheets that follow, you will see that sometimes I write down just the reference, sometimes I write the reference and a few words to show what part I am focusing on, and other times I write the entire text of

The Gold Panning System

the nugget. Do whatever works best for you. The main point is that you write down the gold nugget verses in such a way that you know what it is you are answering the questions about.

Step 5 - Answer. Now that I have my gold nuggets written down, I can answer the questions about them. Remember, you may not be able to answer every question for the nuggets you have selected and that is perfectly fine.

On the following pages is the Gold Panning Sheet for John chapter 3.

(Example 1)

Date: 5/3/12 **Passage Studied:** John 3

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

Verses 16 & 17

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

He is loving. He cares about us. He doesn't want anyone to perish but wants us all to have eternal life.

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

He is working out His plan of salvation. He gave Jesus to die for our sin so that all who accept Him will be saved.

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

I should be loving as God is.

I should be willing to give my life for others as Jesus did.

Is there a command for me to obey?

Believe in Jesus.

I must be born again by accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. (from verses 3, 7, 15 & 16)

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

God doesn't want anyone to perish but that does not mean that everyone will be going to heaven. Jesus is very clear in this passage that only those who believe in Jesus will be saved. Verse 18 is pretty clear about this.

What does this mean for my life?

I must believe that Jesus is who He said He is. He is the Son of God. He died for my sin, was buried, and God raised Him from the dead.

This belief must lead to action. I must show my belief in Him by living my life for Him and His purpose. May His will rule my life and not my own will.

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System

You may have noticed as you read the example above that I did not stick strictly with my gold nugget verses as I answered the questions. Once I started answering the questions I decided that some of the other verses I had underlined helped answer a question better than my gold nugget verses alone. They shared a common theme with the gold nugget verses.

I could have gone back and included them as part of my gold nuggets, but that really isn't necessary. The point here is to learn a lesson from the text being studied. The Gold Panning System helps you work through a passage in an organized way, but it is flexible. You do not have to be strict about only using your nuggets to answer the questions. Feel free to use the entire text to answer the questions if you find it helpful.

The rest of this section contains more examples of completed Gold Panning sheets. The purpose of these examples is to help you see what completed Gold Panning Sheets look like. The intent is that you will become comfortable using the system if you can see how others have used it.

As you look at the examples I want you to notice a few things about them.

The Gold Panning System

1. Not every question is answered on some sheets because the question did not apply to the nuggets selected.
2. Sometimes the nugget verse reference and complete text is shown, sometimes it may be the reference and a few words, and other times it is just the reference. Do whatever works for you. As a minimum, list the verse reference (e.g. Verse 8).
3. Some of the nuggets and/or answers may not make sense to you. You may look at the passage and the nugget and wonder why that verse was someone's nugget. That's okay. That nugget and the answers spoke to someone that was guided by the Holy Spirit at that point and time in their life. It does not have to make sense to anyone else but the person doing the study. As long as it is not unscriptural, one person's nugget does not necessarily have to make sense to anyone else. This does not happen much, but it is possible. The point is that there are no right or wrong nuggets.

(Example 2)

Date: 5/3/12 **Passage Studied:** Daniel 4

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

Verses: 3, 17, 25, 31, 34, 35

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

His dominion is everlasting.

His Kingdom is from generation to generation.

He does according to His will in heaven and on earth.

No one can restrain His hand or question Him.

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

He has dominion over everything that is going on. He establishes kings and rulers and removes them according to His will.

He disciplines (humbles) those who walk in pride.

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Don't be prideful like Nebuchadnezzar.

Recognize that anything I may accomplish is a testimony to God and not me or my abilities.

Is there a command for me to obey?

Be humble. Honor God.

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

God humbles the proud.

All things come from God. Only He deserves the praise and glory.

What does this mean for my life?

I must remain humble. I must not let the blessings of God go to my head. I am just the brush, He is the artist working through my life. He brings the results. I must remain His obedient servant.

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

(Example 3)

Date: 4/15/12 **Passage Studied:** Acts 12

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

Vs. 2: Then he killed James the brother of Jesus with the sword.

Vs. 11: The Lord...delivered me.

Vs. 19: Herod...commanded that they should be put to death.

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

God is the giver of life and death.

He alone decides who has life and who will die when.

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

He is in control of life and gives it to whomever He pleases to carry out His will.

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

James: Be willing to give my life for the sake of the Gospel and service to the Lord.

Peter: Obey what God tells me to do.

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

Serving Christ does not necessarily mean that He will protect us from suffering or even death. In this world we will have tribulation. Our promise is eternal life with Him. This world is temporary.

What does this mean for my life?

I can be bold in my service to Christ and say like Paul, "to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Don't try to take God's glory. It can be deadly.

The Gold Panning System

(Example 4 - Child - 9 year old)

Date: 3/4/12 **Passage Studied:** Acts 8

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

Verses 1 & 30

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

God gives us courage and the right words to say.

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Be courageous like the disciples when persecution is around.

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

God gave the apostles courage when there was persecution. I think He did that because he wanted the apostles to stay in Jerusalem to preach.

The Gold Panning System

(Example 5 – Child – 9 year old)

Date: 3/18/12 **Passage Studied:** Acts 9

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

Verses 5,16, 34-35, 42

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

God can make people come to Him by just a single miracle.

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

**What does this passage say about yourself?
Is there an example for me to follow?**

Is there a command for me to obey?

Do not be hard-hearted like Saul. Instead of persecuting Christians I should bring people to Christ and strengthen Christians.

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

I think it is interesting that Saul said, "Who are you Lord?" when Jesus called Saul on the road to Damascus. I think Saul knew that it was Jesus speaking. When we hear God's voice, I don't think we should say, "Who are you?" I think we should say, "Speak Lord for your servant hears" like Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:10.

(Example 6)

Date: 11/14/11 **Passage Studied:** Mark 4

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

1. Verses 35-41
2. Verse 20

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

1. God will exercise our faith by allowing us to be in situations where we need faith. He is more powerful than any storm I might face.
2. God gives everyone the chance to come to Him. He sows the seed of His Word equally to everyone.

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

Even though it may seem like He is sleeping He is aware of our storms and fears. He will not take us out of the storm until we face it with faith or cry out to Him in fear. He is in control of everything.

The Gold Panning System

1. He is sowing His seed – revealing Himself to everyone.

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

1. Don't be like the apostles. Jesus is with me. I should not be afraid. I should keep faith over fear.
2. Be good soil

Is there a command for me to obey?

1. Fear not.
2. Accept the Word and bear fruit.

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

1. I can trust in the Lord, especially in the midst of the storm. Fear erodes faith.
2. The type of soil I am is totally up to me. I choose which kind of soil I am.

What does this mean for my life?

1. Don't give in to fear. Keep strong in the faith.
2. I need to not let the things of the world distract me from bearing fruit (being good soil.)

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System

NOTES

Your Turn

Now that you have read about how to use the Gold Panning System and have studied numerous examples of how to use the Gold Panning Sheet, it is your turn to use the system. On the following pages you will find blank Gold Panning Sheets for you to use in your studies. There are 30 sheets. That is enough to use one per day for a month or one per week for 30 weeks.

If you are not sure where to start with the Gold Panning System, I suggest you start with the Gospel of Mark. When I disciple people using the Gold Panning System I start them off by studying the Gospel of Mark. Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four Gospels having only 16 chapters. It is packed full of gold nuggets that can be applied to our life today. It is also one of the most overlooked books of the New Testament.

Once you have mastered the system using Mark as your training ground, you can move on to other parts of God's Word. When you have run out of Gold Panning Sheets in this book you can download a PDF file from our website and print your own never ending supply. Download the file at:

FamilyGravity.com/GoldPanning

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

Date:_____ **Passage Studied:**_____

Pray - Underline - Select - Write - Answer

Pick out the verses from each day's study that mean something to you. These are your "gold nugget" verses. Write them down in the space provided. Then, answer each of the questions that apply to your gold nugget verses. Questions are continued on the next page.

Gold Nugget Verses:

What does this passage say about God?

What do I learn about what God is like?

What do I learn about what God is doing in the world?

The Gold Panning System

What does this passage say about yourself?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there an important truth for me to believe?

What does this mean for my life?

Any other lessons, questions or comments?

The Gold Panning System

Concluding Remarks

The Gold Panning System of Bible study is a simple to use method of studying the Bible. You can use the standard method or the alternate method to gain great insight from any passage of scripture. Whether done individually or with others, everyone who uses this system will benefit from it.

God's Word is the most profitable gold mine in the world. He has placed in it a never-ending source of wisdom to help us live for Him and carry out our mission in life. The Bible is our instruction manual for life. In it God reveals Himself to us. Through reading it, studying it, understanding it and implementing it in our life, we bear His fruit and become the person He created us to be.

May you grow in your knowledge of the Lord and be moved to becoming more like Christ as you implement the Gold Panning System as part of your Bible study tool kit.

The Gold Panning System

References

1. Gregory I c. 540-603 *Morals on the Book of Job* by S. Gregory the Great: A Library of Fathers of the Holy Catholic Church, Vol. 1, Parts 1 & 2 (Oxford: John Henry Parker, 1844), Preface (Epistle to the Reader), p. 9.

Unless otherwise noted all scripture references are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Bible texts marked "NIV" are from The Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Bold emphasis in scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis.

The Gold Panning System

About the Author

Ken Lawrence has a passion for serving the Lord by serving families. Ken has been called by God to do all that he can to strengthen families and equip them to be all God has called them to be.

Ken is the founder of Families For Christ Ministries and has been serving families since 1998. He is a pastor, author, public speaker, singer, songwriter, and producer of Christian videos. He has been married to his wife Chris since 1981, is the father of four, and a grandfather.

Ken and Chris homeschool their children and served as the leaders of the Christian Home Educators of the Antelope Valley (CHEAV) for five years. CHEAV is a homeschool support group in Southern California which at the time had a membership of over 150 families.

Ken worked in the aerospace industry for 20 years before going into full-time ministry. He has been in church leadership for 20 years and pastoral ministry for over ten years.

The Gold Panning System

Ken is community-minded having served on the board of the Norwood Chamber of Commerce for several years and president for two years. He has served as the Cub Scout Master for Norwood Cub Scout Pack 469.

Ken has a gift for teaching in a clear, easy to understand way. He has a passion for teaching people how to read and understand God's Word so they can apply it to their everyday life. He has developed the Gold Panning System of Bible study which allows people of all ages to study the Bible in a clear, systematic way. The Gold Panning System has been successfully used by people from six years old to 75 years old and everywhere in between. Ken has been privileged to teach the Gold Panning System in the United States and India.

In 2012 Ken taught groups of pastors and evangelists in India the Gold Planning System during a two-week revival. During that trip 2,088 new believers accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Indian pastors are using the Gold Panning System to disciple these new believers to help them grow in their Christian walk.

Ken and his family live in Norwood, Colorado where they run Ministry Haven, a retreat center for pastors, missionaries and military chaplains. For more information about Ministry Haven visit their website at **MinistryHaven.com**.

The Gold Panning System

If you would like Ken to teach the Gold Panning System or any of his other topics to your group, he would love to do so. You can reach him and find out more about the topics he teaches via his website **SpeakerKenLawrence.com**.



FAMILY GRAVITY™
HOLDING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Our Mission: The mission of Family Gravity™ is to help hold families together. To accomplish this, we publish videos, books, newsletters, and host special events all geared toward helping families build strong bonds that will withstand the attacks of a family hostile culture. We are here for you, the Christian parent. We pray that the Lord will use us to strengthen your family so you can impact your world for Him.

To find more family strengthening resources, visit our website **FamilyGravity.com**. Please consider making a donation to help us continue to produce books, videos, and other resources to help families like yours. You can donate on our website or by mailing your donations to:

Family Gravity
Norwood, CO 81423

Family Gravity is a ministry of Families For Christ Ministries, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.



Ministry Haven

A haven of rest and renewal for ministers, missionaries and military chaplains

Ministry Haven is a place of rest and renewal for ministers, missionaries, and military chaplains. Located in the Rocky Mountains of Southwest Colorado, Ministry Haven is a secluded, peaceful place to rest, relax, and be renewed. Best of all, it is free!

The following research from Barna, Focus on the Family, and Fuller Seminary show why Ministry Haven is a much needed ministry:

- 1,500 pastors leave the ministry each month
- 50% of pastors' marriages will end in divorce
- 80% of pastors feel unqualified and discouraged in their role as pastor
- 80% of seminary and Bible school graduates who enter the ministry will leave the ministry within the first five years
- 70% of pastors constantly fight depression

For more information about Ministry Haven, visit **MinistryHaven.com**.

