

Chapter Summary

Method of Bible Study

30 DAY JOURNEY

The method of Bible study that we are focusing on today is called the Chapter Summary Method. It consists of studying to create a summary for a specific chapter of the Bible. This method helps us discover the general content of the chapter, learn how to organize events, themes, and make practical life applications. The good news is there are 1,189 chapters in the Bible. So, we have plenty of options.

Before we begin, I want to remind you to grab your study Bible and maybe even go to studylight.org to access other helpful bible study tools that help develop a chapter summary. Also, to get ready for this method, you will need to choose a chapter to study and read through it 5 or 6 times. Each time you read it, slow down and think through each word. You may want to read the chapter in different versions. Maybe the NKJV, NIV, NLT, but don't just get through it; let it get through you. To help ensure that is being accomplished, have a notebook open, ready to take some notes. The steps for a chapter summary Bible study will allow us to look deeper into what we are reading. So, open your study Bible to [Luke 15](#) and have it open along with your notebook as we move through our chapter summary Bible study today.



Caption

01

After reading the chapter several times, create a short title or caption that helps identify the chapter's big idea.

For example, after reading Luke 15 at least five times, the caption or title that comes to mind is "Lost & Found." If you have your bible open, you can see why we chose that caption.

Contents

02

Describe, summarize, paraphrase, outline, or make a list of the major points in the chapter. This is completely dependent on your preference. Some people like to summarize; analytical people may enjoy outlining. Just choose the method you feel most comfortable with, which is easy for you to do. Don't try to interpret the chapter; only make observations on its contents and jot down what the writer said.

In Luke 15, we note that this chapter contains three parables. One about a lost sheep, one about a lost coin, and one about a lost son.

Chief People

03

Identify the crucial people mentioned in the chapter. If there are pronouns, you may have to look in the chapters before or after to identify them. Ask yourself:

- **Why this person is significant to the story?**
- **What is their role?**

So, in Luke 15, we have several people involved. First is the shepherd with the lost sheep. There is the woman with the lost coin. The father with the lost son. The sons.

Choice Verse

04

Choose a verse that summarizes the whole chapter or one that speaks to you personally. In some chapters, you may find a key verse that summarizes the writer's big idea; there may not be a key verse in other chapters. Sometimes you may want to pick a verse that you believe God would have you apply to your life.



Remember, the Bible is alive. These words are God-breathed, so allow God to speak. Don't read from just an academic stance. Listen for God's voice as you read the Bible.



Luke 15:7 "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Crucial Words

05

Write down the keyword or words of the chapter. Often it is the word that is used most frequently.

In Luke 15, the word lost appears in verses 4, 5, 9, 24, and 32. The word found appears in verses 5, 6, 9, 24, and 32. So, I will write down the word **lost**, and the word **found**.

Challenges

06

List any difficulties you may have with the passage. **Are there any statements you don't understand? Is there any problem or question you would like to study further?** While doing a chapter summary, you may get ideas for other types of studies you want to do in the future. For instance, a particular word in the chapter may catch your attention, and you might want to look more closely at something that stood out to you from the chapter.

So, from Luke 15, we might come back later and dig deeper into what kind of attitude or misguided mindset the elder son displays. That expresses his disappointment over the celebration that his younger brother received because he came back home.

Cross-References

07



Using the cross-references in your study Bible, look up other verses that help clarify what the chapter is talking about and list them. Ask the question, **What else in the Bible helps me understand this chapter?** Cross-references are important because they are helpful tools in interpreting the meaning of a chapter. They enable you to see what the Bible as a whole has to say about the subject.

Matthew 18:11 – 14, Isaiah 53:6, John 10:10 – 14, Psalm 119:176



1 Peter 2:25 "For "you were like sheep going astray,"but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Christ Seen

08

The entire Bible is a revelation of the person of Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus used the Old Testament to teach his disciples about himself. As you study each chapter, be alert for statements that tell you something about Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, or God the Father. Ask yourself, **What can I learn about the nature of Jesus from this chapter?**

If we look for God the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit in Luke 15, I think we can see

- **1st Parable** — Jesus, the Good Shepherd, searching for lost sheep.
- **2nd Parable** — The coin, the Holy Spirit, our rightful Owner finding and restoring what was lost.
- **3rd Parable** — shows us the heart of God the Father waiting to welcome us home.



Central Lesson(s)

09

Write down the major principles, insights, and lessons you learn from this chapter. Ask yourself,

- **Why does God want this passage in the Bible?**
- **What does he want to teach me from this chapter?**
- **What is the central thought the writer is trying to develop?**

In Luke 15 - Jesus loves the lost. Jesus passionately pursues those not following Him. All heaven rejoices when the lost is found.

Conclusion

10

This is the application part of your study. We want to ask ourselves some pointed questions to help apply what we have learned to our everyday lives so that what we have read and studied shows up in the way we live.

- **How do these truths apply to me personally?**
- **What precisely will I do about them?**

In each of the three parables, an intentional and passionate effort was made to recover what was lost. I have family and friends that are not following Jesus. So, I need to develop a specific plan for reaching them with the Good News. What does that plan look like, and when will I start it?

I need to express more joy when I hear of people who have accepted Christ and started following Him.

So, those are the **10 Steps** involved in the **Chapter Summary Method of Bible Study**. Why don't you choose a chapter and dive into this method yourself? I suggest 1 Corinthians 13, 2 Timothy 2, 1 John 1, or John 17.

What is your one takeaway from this session?

