

Tool of Recording
Word Study

The Word Study is more than going to a dictionary and defining a word. It is the method of scholarship that puts the student on the pathway of developing the habits of reflective thinking derived from Scripture. It places the truths of God's Word at the center of all learning, which illuminates the understanding and consecrates the mind. The Word Study gives preeminence to the word of God in deducing scriptural principles of the subject. The learners ideas are clothed in truth. Words studies can be as many generations deep and wide as you wish.

The Word Study Process:

1. Choose a word or subject.

RESEARCH

2. Define the words

- a. You may have to do a genealogy of words - define more than one word to understand the definition best.
- b. What is this word's the part of speech
- c. Find the etymology and history of the word(s)
- d. Emotional definition - what is your experience with this word - both useful and non-useful
- e. Use the dictionary to define the word - the Webster's 1828 Dictionary is highly recommended underline the key words within the definitions

3. Define Key words

- a. Record the part of speech, etymology, and chosen definition of key words.

4. Research the word(s) in the scripture

- a. Search in the Standard Works and record passages that relate to this study
- b. Use the Topical Guide and other sources at churchofJesusChrist.org

5. Find what the living prophets have said about this word(s)

- a. Search in the "Teachings of the Presidents of the Church" manuals
- b. BYU & BYUI devotionals
- c. Use churchofJesusChrist.org
- d. Past and present Church Magazines (Ensign, New Era, Friend)
- e. Institute and seminary classes

5. Find what others say about the word(s)

- a. wise men, founding fathers
- b. other languages
- c. family history
- d. personal experience

REASON

6. Compare and Contrast the word.

- a. What is the opposite of your word?
- b. What do you learn for this contrast?

7. Governing Principles

Identify and record spiritual principles you've discerned from the scriptures, teaching of the modern prophets, doctrines and inspiration.

8. **Providential Purpose**

Identify God's purpose for the subject or event according to the scriptures, principles, teachings from modern prophets and inspiration. Identify the contributions to the spread of the gospel and the glorification of God. **The providential purpose and leading ideas are the “theme” of a subject, what God, the author, wants you to learn.**

RELATE

9. **My Purpose for this word study**

- a. What does God want me to learn from this study?
- b. What is the spirit telling me to DO with this information?
- c. Are there any changes you can make in your actions and thoughts?

RESPOND & REPORT

9. **What action does God want me to do or remember?**

10. **Give an accounting - how will you hold yourself accountable?**

RECORD

11. **Accept the gift of remembrance by writing down your commitment and sharing your knowledge with another.**

- a. Write your own definition or life application of the word, incorporating all research. This will help you "own" that definition and placed on the pathway to personal revelation.
- b. Copy your personal definition into your vocabulary list.

Benefits of a Word Study

1. Consecrates the mind.
2. Builds vocabulary (particularly one of liberty)
3. Increases reading comprehension and verbal skills.
4. Establishes precise word usage in writing and oral communication.
5. Cultivates the habit of critical thinking.
6. Produces deductive reasoning skills (cause to effect - choices to consequences.)
7. Sharpens discernment of truth from error.
8. Inculcates a lifetime habit of scholarship.
9. Aids in establishing a Christlike life.