

SPACE

I learned this particular Bible study method when I was in high school, and have been using it off and on ever since. This is a great method for the New Testament Letters; they are more abstract than the narrative passages in the Old Testament or in the Gospels. It can also be a great introduction to a more abstract style of study for kids who are ready to think abstractly. The passages are usually short around 10 verses and only cover one topic.

As with the passages for the 5W's and an H or the life of Jesus, you may not always be able to find an answer for that particular passage.

Supplies Needed for the SPACE Study

Your Bible, pen or pencil, colored pencils or highlighter (optional), and your notebook or the included, the included [printable page](#).

How to do the SPACE Study

SPACE stands for Sins I need to confess, Promises to claim, Attitudes I need to change, Commands to keep, and Examples to follow.

It can be very easy to find a passage to use this method with beyond the passages I suggest below because most Bibles are divided up into convenient sub-headings. For example, in my Bible, James 2 has “*Favoritism Forbidden*” and “*Faith and Deeds,*” both of these would be great topics for study.

If you have the time and ability, **I recommend reading your chosen passage five times**, one for each of the letters in SPACE. I know that is not always practical, and I don’t always do that myself, but it can be a great way to plumb the depths of a Biblical passage.

As you read the passage the first time, **look for any sins you need to confess**. These can come in two forms: sins of commission and sins of omission. Sins of commission are the sins you set out to commit, such as when I willfully choose to lie about what I’m doing. Sins of omission are sins we commit through our inaction. I first realized I did this when I was reading the book of James and thought about the times I had not spoken up when I saw a wrong committed. I watched someone else break a rule and I said nothing. That is a sin of omission because I did not act. Sins of omission are harder to spot because it is our inaction that causes them.

The next time you sit down to read the passage have your pen handy and **look for any promises**. I like to underline promises in my Bible as a reminder of what God has promised me. It can be a great thing for me to see in my Bible as I read it during hard times.

*A word of warning, not all promises are for everyone. Particularly when studying the Old Testament, many promises found in those passages are particularly given to Israel.

At the third time through the passage, you are starting to feel you really know this passage, and it might help shake up your familiarity to read a different translation. During this time, **make note of any attitudes that need to be changed.** For me, this will change each time I'm reading because I am a different person each time and God is working on different things in me. It always amazes me how God can use the same passage to teach me different lessons each time I read it. This might also lead you to realize you have some confessing to do.

Next, **look for any commands in the passage.** I was reading 2 Timothy recently and I was amazed at how many commands were in the short 10 verse section. Paul was on a roll giving so much great advice I had half a page of notes just off of the commands he had given.

Finally, **look for examples to follow.** I find this is often the hardest one to find because so often the letters are written to people or churches doing wrong or asking questions. But, if you look to what the author of the book is doing, you might give you some great examples to follow.

Because this method already lends itself so readily to personal application, I did not include a separate application area. When you have finished all five letters of SPACE look back over your notes, and decide what you need to work on for that day.

Great Passages to Study with SPACE

Romans 2:17-29

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

2 Corinthians 8:1-13

Romans 8:18-27

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Galatians 3:1-14

Galatians 5:1-15	1 Timothy 4:1-15	James 3:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-10	2 Timothy 3:1-9	James 5:7-12
Ephesians 6:10-20	Titus 3:1-11	1 Peter 2:13-25
Philippians 2:1-11	Hebrews 10:19-39	1 Peter 4:12-19
Philippians 3:1-11	Hebrews 12:1-13	1 John 2:28-3:10
Colossians 3:1-17	James 1:2-18	1 John 4:7-21

Sample Space Study

James 3:1-12

Sins I need to confess- I sometimes allow my frustration to come out in my tone of voice with my kids, and I need to not speak that way with my kids.

Promises to claim- I do not see promises in this passage, but warnings of what can happen, v. 8 *“but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”*

Attitudes to change- I need to change my thought process of the kids’ actions and behaviors from being an interruption, to being an opportunity. >>> Every time I come back to edit this book, I am reminded of this action item.

Commands to keep- Do not presume to teach > warning/command to think and pray before taking on a teaching role, because God expects more from those who teach. Keep control of what you say, while it's never explicitly stated, it is strongly implied by the whole passage to watch what you say.

Examples to follow- There are no examples of people, but examples of how small items (a bit or rudder) can change how a larger creature moves; likewise, our tongue can change where and how we act and move.

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Sins I need to confess

I sometimes allow my frustration to come out in my tone of voice with my kids, and I need to not speak that way with my kids.

Promises to claim

I do not see promises in this passage, but warnings of what can happen, v. 8 “but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”



Attitudes to change

I need to change my thought process of the kids' actions and behaviors from being an interruption, to being an opportunity.

Comands to obey

Do not presume to teach > warning/command to think and pray before taking on a teaching role, because God expects more

Examples to follow

There are no examples of people, but examples of how small items (a bit or rudder) can change how a larger creature moves; likewise, our tongue can change where and how we act and move.



SPACE

Sins I need to

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Promises to

- -

Attitudes to

-



Comands to

-

Examples to

- - -

