

Title: Linkup 6 – going deeper in the word
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William Tyndale – the first man to translate the New Testament into English – imprisoned for his work for years and on 6 October, 1530, in the Netherlands, was brought to a place of execution, tied to a stake, strangled by the hangman to the point of death, and then burned in fire for doing God's work. As he met the Lord, Tyndale cried with a loud voice, "Lord! Open the king of England's eyes!"

Our assumption: An intimate daily connection with Jesus, through His Word and Spirit, will cause the rest of my life to be transformed in due time.

Ingredients for linkup – no specific order and need not use all ingredients every time.

What is the purpose of linkup? To know God.

1. Appointment – schedule an appointment every day
2. Come boldly
3. First goal: Pursue peace.
4. Spirit: Let the Spirit guide you.
5. Prayer:
6. Garment of Praise: worship God
7. The Word – meditate on one or two scriptures every day.

Pay attention

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

First part of Linkup – aim for peace; **Second part of Linkup** – going deeper, bible study, more time.

- **Why study?** *the more you know, the better it gets! (Supersport)

Bible study Tools

1. ***A Journal or notebook.** Write it down, refer back, keep track of journey and help to memorise key scriptures.
2. ***A study bible** – *Spirit-filled life study bible / ESV study bible / Life application study bible
3. ***Bible translations** – **word for word** (literal translation from the Hebrew or Greek) NKJV / ESV / NIV vs **paraphrase** (idea or concept translation from the original Hebrew or Greek) NLT / AMP / Message
4. ***Get inexpensive copies** of one or two extra translations to compare.
5. **Bible handbook** – not critical, but gives you a bit of history and expands more of the context
6. **Dictionary / thesaurus**
7. **Bible software** – Logos 4; E-Sword
8. **Online tools:** biblia.com / biblegateway.com
9. **Pens / markers / crayons / music / coffee** / (Make it fun!)
10. **Study space.** Have an area with your study tools set out. Blanket, slippers, heater etc.

Bible study tips: Find what works best for you

1. **Get overview, then zoom in.**
2. **Less is more:** less verses, more time! 30 minutes a day (for a start), but just 7 verses in NT letters, more in narrative versions like gospels, Acts, OT history books.
3. **The gift of Time:** To fall in love with the word, you need to give it time! *Give the Holy Spirit the gift of time.*

- a. Schedule it.
- b. Do this for one month.
- 4. **It's Personal! (God's love letter to you)** – it's for you!
- 5. **Go for depth, not amount – hide it in your heart**
- 6. **Think of bible study as a conversation.** To fully understand it we must respond to it.
- 7. **Where to start?** (1) Sermon notes. (2) Gospels. (3) Start at beginning?
- 8. **Relevant study** – come with questions about the burning issues
- 9. **Books are no substitution**
- 10. **Encouragement partner**

Studying a section of scripture

Read for the theme and then give a title for the day.

1. **Establish the main idea:** What's the point? The main idea? The highlight? Take one thing away at least.
 - a. What is the big picture? What is God trying to say?
 - b. What will your life look like if you do this? If you don't do it, what could your life look like?
2. **Extend the theme:**
 - a. *How is this truth manifested in today's churches? Families? Believers? World? Work?
 - b. *What does this passage tell you about God? Who is He here? What part of His character is exhibited? What is His best name here (Comforter, Healer, Teacher, and so on)?
3. **Explore the personal connection:**
 - a. Did this passage raise a question for you? Write it down and explore it
 - b. Did this passage stir up conviction in your heart?
 - c. What will these verses prompt you to do this week?
4. **Bible versions** – read the same verse in two or three versions. Great insights. Language help.
 - a. Word for word translations
 - b. Thought for thought paraphrases
5. **Cross reference column** – leads to other verses that expounds on the one you're studying / use sparingly!
6. **Dictionary / Thesaurus** – study a specific word that is highlighted.
7. **Topical study** – concordance at back of study bible

***The challenge** – for the next 30 days study 7 to 10 verses every day. Journal. **Work through 1 Peter or James.**

Extra questions to ask during bible study:

Inspect the details:

- i. Why was this particular word used?
- ii. Why was it written in this particular order?
- iii. Why was this included?
- iv. Why is this necessary?
- v. Why was it worded this way?
- vi. What is the response God is hoping for?
- vii. Who is this passage talking about?
- viii. Why does this part come before that part?
- ix. Why do I need to know this?