

The law & Gospel method of Bible study is the Church's traditional way to study the Bible, which was popularized by Martin Luther. Law & Gospel Bible study makes a distinction between God's two main Biblical themes: law & Gospel. God's law theme identifies our sin, by revealing what God wants us to do that we don't do. God's Gospel theme identifies our need for Jesus the Savior, and reveals how God's love offers us salvation through Christ.

**STEP ONE PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL GOD'S VOICE THROUGH THE TEXT:**

*"Father, let your law and Gospel voice renew our love, faith, and hope."*

**STEP TWO READ THE TEXT REPEATEDLY UNTIL YOU CAN TELL IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS:**

**Mark 1:29-39** (See the reverse side of the worksheet for the printed Gospel text)

**STEP THREE REVIEW A STUDY BIBLE TO DETERMINE THE TEXT'S THEOLOGICAL MEANING:**

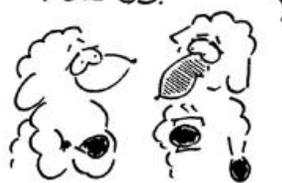
Mark helps us avoid the pitfall of a one-sided emphasis on miracles by putting them within the context of Jesus' preaching. In our Gospel today there are several of them-- Mark recognizes these miracles as instances of Christ's freeing power, but doesn't stop there. The purpose of the exchange between Jesus and the disciples (1:35-39) is to tell us that Jesus didn't stop there, either. Seeing the acclaim and recognition that Jesus had won in Capernaum, the disciples expected Jesus to stay in the town and continue what he'd begun. But when they got up in the morning, they found Jesus in a lonely place, praying (v. 35). "Everyone is searching for you," they said, indicating that they expected him to return (v. 37). But Jesus turned the tables. "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also," He said, "for that is why I came out " (v. 38). Saying this, Jesus told the disciples his purpose: to spread the good news, preaching and teaching throughout Galilee. Seeing the miracles and the kind of recognition they provided, the disciples wanted to stay in Capernaum, riding Jesus' miracle-working power into a more glorious kind of life. But Jesus wouldn't hear of it. "I must go and I must preach," he said in so many words. "That is my purpose." And later, when the disciples were more ready for it, he told them his purpose was to die (see Mark 8:31). He insisted on preaching the word and going to the cross. Jesus' manifestation did not take place in a super earthly realm of glory, but in towns like Nazareth and Capernaum with common, ordinary, everyday people. And it tells us that Jesus' real epiphany was not in the miracles, glorious as they were, but in the word and finally in the cross itself. The miracles are like illustrations, pointing away from themselves to Christ and the cross.

I THINK JESUS SHOULD  
HAVE SET UP SHOP  
AT SIMON'S HOUSE  
AND LET THE PEOPLE  
COME TO HIM.



WWW.ASJUSTA.COM

WHEN JESUS HEADS  
OUT, IT REMINDS  
ME THAT GOD  
COMES LOOKING  
FOR US.



WHAT ABOUT  
FRANCHISING?  
THAT COULD  
WORK!



MARK 1: 29-39

© NETZSTENJZ 09.02.04

**Mark 1:29-39** <sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**STEP FOUR** COMPLETE A LAW & GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY TO *Restore Hope in the Savior*

**Law Question:** *How does this text reveal our sin (self-centeredness) and how we do not live as God desires?*

Answer.....  
.....  
.....

**Gospel Question:** *How does this text reveal God's gift of Jesus as the Savior who freely offers us salvation?*

Answer.....  
.....  
.....

Please send your "answers" to Pastor Bob: [Schmalzle@yahoo.com](mailto:Schmalzle@yahoo.com) which he likes to incorporate into the sermon.

**STEP FIVE** PRAYERFULLY MEDITATE UPON GOD'S GOSPEL VOICE: *Restoring Our Hope*

**A. Quieting Our Inner Sanctuary:** *We quiet our hearts (souls) by focusing on our breathing. Breathe in slowly to the count of five (J-E-S-U-S)...hold your breath to a count of six (C-H-R-I-S-T)...exhale to a count of seven (T-H-E-L-O-R-D). Repeat this pattern of breathing until you are relaxed.*

**B. Dwelling within Our Inner Sanctuary:** *We meet the Lord Jesus in the sanctuary of our hearts (souls), which is a place created within our mind's eye for us to be with the Lord. Using our favorite sights, sounds, smells and feelings, we visualize our inner sanctuary as a place of peace where the Lord Jesus meets us.*

**C. Listening to God's Voice in Scripture Speak to Us through Jesus:** *As Jesus meets us in our inner sanctuary, he lovingly shares God's Gospel message of hope from the Scripture text we have just studied. Listening to God's Gospel voice restores our trust and hope that Jesus' death and resurrection freely offers us eternal Salvation. When Jesus speaks to us, our souls are nourished and refreshed.*

**STEP SIX** SHARE THIS LAW & GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY WITH A FRIEND:

*Forward this via email, give a printed copy, or post on social media*