**Bible Verse Mapping Seminar**

**WM Retreat 2019**

**What is Verse Mapping?**

Bible Verse Mapping is a Bible study method that examines a Bible passage in various ways. Verse mapping uses context, cross-reference materials, various Bible translations, dictionaries and other materials to aid in our devotional time. It uses these materials to dissect verses in order to experience a deeper understanding of the character and heart of God, to enhance our prayer lives, and to give us a firm foundation of faith and practice.

Verse Mapping allows you to deconstruct individual parts of a verse and then put it back together with the new understanding you have gained. It incorporates all the elements needed to dig into God's word in a systematic way.

(EGW quotes on study)

There is no right or wrong way to map scripture. Yours won’t look exactly like the next person’s, and that’s completely okay. The main objective is to stick to the scripture, break it all the way down, put it back together with a fresh understanding that generates spiritual life and vigor to our study time.

Verse mapping is the foundational element in thorough Bible study and in developing a lasting and meaningful relationship with God.

(bible knowledge quiz story)

Bible Verse Mapping is a very versatile method of study as well. It is very easy to include many other Bible study methods into your verse mapping habits; journaling, Bible coloring and creativity, praying the Scriptures and Bible marking and reading plans, as well as many others.

**What do I need to get started?**

Bible

Note paper or verse map template

Concordance

Dictionary

Thesaurus (synonyms/antonyms)

Various Bible Translations

Other Reference Material (EGW Dictionary, EGW Encyclopedia, Conflict of the Ages Series, etc...)

Highlighters/Colored Pencils/Pen/Pencil/Crayons

Verse Mapping Key, if you choose to use one

**Helpful Apps: (Download before sitting down to study & familiarize yourself with them)**

Bible App of your choice (recommend EGW Bible w/Commentary)

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Parallel Plus

EGW Writings 2

Sabbath School Quarterly

Bible Dictionary

Bible.Is-or other Audio Bible

Desire of Ages

Vines Dictionary

Blue Letter Bible

E-Sword

Prayer Prompter

**Verse Mapping/Study Rules:**

1. Context
2. Use the whole Bible
3. Bible does not contradict itself
4. Bible interprets itself
5. Bible is written with Heavens culture-meaning the principles apply in all times/places
6. Bible has many literary authors and styles. Some of the most common symbolic, parables, metaphors, poetry, personification, allegorical, idioms, hyperbole.

**How to Verse Map:**

1. **Go to your devotional spot, gather your materials**--make a quiet spot in your home for your study. If you don't have a specific room or place for daily devotions, arrange all your supplies in a pretty basket to have ready to carry with you wherever you can find some alone time.
2. Choose your **reading plan.** Having a reading plan will help you know what to study for that day. It saves time and frustration when you just don't know what to study.
3. **Pray** for God to show you what He wants to say and that He will give you the Holy Spirit to help you understand what is revealed. Asking for and receiving understanding from God is no small thing. Many scholars and men of great intelligence have mastered the Hebrew and Greek languages, and spent their lives translating and analyzing each verse of the Bible—yet they do not get its message. Some of the Pharisees were individuals of great intellect who studied Scripture for endless hours—yet all in vain. If these and other such men of great intellect failed to get the message, we should never assume that we could study the Bible and, on our own, automatically understand it. Only by asking God to open our minds can we understand the Bible—receive the message within. If we think we no longer need to *ask* for His guidance, then our understanding will diminish. The second rule is closely related to the first. It should also be part of the prayer for guidance and understanding. Sincerely petition God to correct you through your Bible study. You must earnestly seek and desire for God to straighten your path. Once again, this request for correction should be part of the prayer before Bible study.
4. **Get** out your verse map. There are many kinds of free, printable verse mapping templates online or you can create your own. Make copies to keep in your binders so you always have one ready.
5. **Read the scripture**, sometimes two or three times, silently, unbiased d& objective, as if we've never heard it before. If we approach a passage thinking we already know what it teaches we may read our own meaning into the passage.
6. **Say** the scripture out loud**, inserting your name** where he/she/I appears.
7. **Read** verse/s again, **emphasizing each word** individually.
8. **Write your verse** out on your template using the KJV of the Bible.
9. Write the same verse from **various translations** in another spot on your page or in your template.
10. Circle or **highlight key words** (usually nouns or verbs) or **phrases** of interest, characters you'd like to study, or words that you'd like to define. (If you use a key, highlight or color according to your key).
11. **Define** all words using the **dictionary,** write the word and the definition in your verse map.
12. **Define** all words using the **concordance**, write Hebrew or Greek translations and meanings for each key word or idea. Add these words to your verse map.
13. Examine and/or write down the **context**. "Con-text" literally means "with text". Think of text as that which gives **text**ure, or that which con**text**ualizes what you're reading. Be mindful of, or research, what is happening before the text/s, after the text/s, the historical time period and people, the culture, and the reason the Biblical letter or book was written. Some Bibles have a synopsis of the chapter before each one that can be very helpful in understanding context. Be a journalist! Answer these questions: who, what, where, when, how, why.
14. **Cross Reference.** Using the concordance, look up other places in scripture this same word or phrase is used. Write them on your verse mapping template.
15. **Search EGW writings** for reference to a concept or word that you are studying, write these notes in your map.
16. **Put it all together.** Rewrite the verse using the information you have gathered.
17. **Write the concepts** you have found in the scriptures.

1. **Apply the concepts** to your own life and determine what you will do with what you've learned.
2. Write or pray a **prayer** based on what you studied.
3. **Determine to share** what you have learned from your study in the context of you own personal experience either in writing, teaching, or personal witnessing. You will be surprised what God will do and how He will bless you when you decide to share with others what He has done!

**Study Definitions:**

Define - Use the dictionary to define any words or phrases of interest.

Context - Examine the context before and after for clues to the context of the verse.

Culture & Customs - research Biblical customs associated with your verse

Who - Who is this verse talking about?

What - What is happening?

Where - Green - Where is this taking place?

When - When is the verse being spoken and to whom?

How - Can apply to the subject, to God, to us, etc...determine the how if possible.

Why - Why is this verse being given to us? Why is this person doing/saying what they are doing/saying?

**Notes:**

I would recommend not highlighting or color coding in your Bibles if you use the verse mapping method of study. God's word is ever expanding as our experience changes, what means the most to you, or touches you one day, may be completely different the next. Don't think that just because you studied a verse once, you don't need to look at it again. Highlighting and verse mapping directly in your Bible may limit you to studying a verse once and not going back to it for a new understanding later. There are many study plans that are created for highlighting and color coding your Bibles, but this is not one of them.

I would suggest developing a marking system that will reference the binder location of your verse map study of a particular verse...a notation of the location in your margin will give you reminders of your previous study time and the thoughts that God gave you that day. Of course, this is just a suggestion! God will lead you in your study and He will help you develop just the right course for your relationship. :)