

BUILDING A BIBLE STUDY

Develop a “Big Idea”

How do I get to the truth without going off on rabbit trails?

What is the format for a study? Is there just one? Does one follow a particular order or is that more open to interpretation?

If you don't know where you are going - you can be sure no one else will either.

Theme

What is the author trying to communicate?

**Analysis – Separation of an intellectual or substantial whole into its constituent parts for individual study.
Take it apart and look at the pieces separately.**

**Synthesis – Fusion of separate elements or substances to form a coherent whole.
Put the pieces together to form a complete idea.**

A “Big Idea” is made up of subject and compliment.

Subject: What is the passage about?

Complement: What does the passage say about what it's about?

3 John

Subject:

“Work together for the truth”

Complement:

Some serve to promote the truth, while others serve themselves, hindering the truth.

Big Idea:

[More] The ultimate joy is to reproduce disciples who walk in the truth.
The church is right to show hospitality to traveling ministers of the truth.
Diotrephes, who served himself and controlled everyone else
will be reprovved.

This “Big Idea” will serve as the backbone of your outline.