

# Thematic Method

"I keep 6 honest serving men. They taught me all that I have ever known, all that I know, and all that I will ever know."

## 6 Honest serving men

What, Why, When, How, Where, Who

## What is a Thematic Study?

### Purpose of Thematic Method

1. Discover what you can about a chosen **theme**.
2. Try to find the **answer to the questions** you have come up with.

### The Thematic Differs From Topical in These Ways

- 1. Thematic is a shorter type of study because you study less verses.**
  - ★ Thematic is a theme within a topic.
  - Topical - every verse
  - Thematic - only deal with scriptures that relate to your questions.
- 2. Thematic consists of many less questions.**

### Advantages of the Thematic Method

1. You don't need as many reference tools.
2. You use this method when you don't have time for full scale topical study.
3. It is a good way to preview a topic by surveying the high points of it's subordinate themes before attempting a regular topical study (preview to get you prepared for a topical)
4. It is a good method to teach someone, being the easiest one to teach.

# Doing the Thematic Method

## TOOLS:

1. Bible (NO STUDY BIBLE)
2. Concordance - Only gives verses that ACTUALLY use the word
3. Topical Bible - All verses that may be related to subject

## STEPS:

1. Choose the theme.
2. Decide on the questions.
  - ★ Write down your questions and narrow it down to 5
3. Create a list of all the verses you intend to study.
4. Start asking your questions to EACH reference.
  - ★ Write down the answers you find on your paper
    - a. Write question
    - b. Write whole verse
    - c. Identify how it answered
5. Conclusion
  - a. Summarize the answers to each of the questions
  - b. You may organize it into an outline
6. Application
  - a. Personal
  - b. Practical
  - c. Possible
  - d. Measurable

## DANGERS:

1. Don't use too many questions (NO MORE THAN 5)
2. Sometimes you can do a thematic study with one question.
3. Many times you will not find the answer to all of your questions.
4. If you are not finding answers, you should note that you need to revise your questions - FINISH THE STUDY - (DO NOT REVISE IN THE MIDDLE)
5. If you want to know EVERYTHING God has to say about a topic, you need to do a topical study.