



Pathfinder Honour: Trainer's Notes

Bible Marking



Instructions to Trainers / Instructors of this Honour

Thankyou for being involved with this Honour. These notes have been developed to assist in teaching / instructing this honour. We recognise that there is much more information available and we are grateful that you should share your expertise.

Please remember that Honours are designed to develop our Pathfinders in many ways; their interests, their knowledge and their relationship with their Saviour and Creator. Your enthusiasm and creativity will have a huge impact on those doing the honour.

To complete an Honour, the following (where applicable) must be completed satisfactorily:

- Physical and Practical Requirements.
- Honour Workbook.
- Honour Assessment Sheet. (*On SPD Honour Website but Leader's level access is required*)

Additional Reference Material (Available from Adventist Book Centres)

Bible Answers printed by Review & Herald (cheap print paperback booklet)

Helps to Bible Study by J L Shuler (paperback booklet)

What the Bible Says About ... by Lonnie Melashenko (paperback booklet)

The Bible Textionary by Noble Vining (paperback booklet)

Bible Study Guide by David Lawson (paperback booklet)

Studying Together by Mark Finley (small paper book)

Acknowledgements

South Pacific Division Honour Notes

Bible Marking Honour

REQUIREMENT 1:

- a. Name five different methods of Bible Marking.
- b. Explain how each method would be used.
- c. List advantages and disadvantages of each.

There are a number of Bible marking methods. The following are addressed in turn

- Chain Reference
- Colour Code
- Cross Reference (or Marginal Reference)
- Number Reference
- Highlighting or Underlining
- Subject Lists

Chain Reference Method

On a spare page in the back of your Bible you would place a list of the topics you wish to mark.

Alongside each topic, list the first reference with a code for that subject. The code could be the first letter of the title. Eg Second Coming – SC

When you have looked up the first reference, you will write the next reference with its code either in the margin near the text or after the text.

You will continue to look up the next text and write the following reference with its code until the study is finished.

After the last text you will write the code and the letter “F” to indicate the finish of the subject.

Advantages

- You could have a study on a subject with no warning.
- It helps you become familiar with your Bible.
- Gives you a set order to follow.
- Printed sheets can be obtained for this type of marking.

Disadvantages

- You can not change the order of your study.
- If you lose your place you would need some other reference to know where to go next, or else start again.
- Not suitable for further study.
- If glued in references from printed sheets are used, they often fall out.

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Colour Code Method

First make a list of topics to be marked and appoint a colour for each topic.

Keep this list in the back of your Bible.

Whenever a text or a passage of Scriptures comes to your attention, mark it with the appropriate colour by a straight line of the right colour, down the margin alongside the text or texts, or as far as the subject continues. If there is a sub-heading, then place a line of your subject colour under that sub-heading or chapter heading to indicate that whole section has to do with that topic.

Advantages

- Colours stand out.
- Suitable for ongoing personal study.
- Can give a good overall view of a Bible teaching.

Disadvantages

- There is some limit on the number of subjects.
- Not suitable for some subjects where a set sequence of texts is needed. Eg some prophetic subjects.
- Need colours on hand when marking.

Comments

- Too much colour can be a disaster, but if done with care, can be most helpful.
- To obtain more colours that are distinctly different, some biros and some highlighters can be used as well as coloured pencils.
- Test all colours before you try in your Bible.
- Group similar subjects and use symbols at the end of your coloured line.
- Pick colours that to you, have relevance to the subject, and are easy to remember. eg Green for Go - Promises, Black for law or sin.

Cross Reference (or Marginal Reference) Method

Where you have found two or more texts speaking about the same subject you can, alongside one of these texts, in the margin, write the reference to those other texts.

Then go to those other texts and write the reference of the first text.

If it is to do with only a word or a phrase from the text that you wish to support from other texts, then place an “R” alongside that word or phrase.

Advantages

- Can be added to.
- Not limited by subjects.
- Quick support for a difficult text.

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Disadvantages

- Limited by space in margin for reference.
- You need to know where to start from.
- Hard to follow through a complete study.

Comment

- Many Bible's have this type of reference in them when printed.

Number Reference Method

When you have information about a word or passage that you cannot fit in the margin, highlight - underline or mark in an appropriate way to suit your system of marking.

Then in the margin, place a number - that number will be the same as a number on a page in the back of your Bible.

To know what that number should be, look at the last lot of information you put on that page and the number you put with it, the number is the next number. So, if your last entry was 5, then this one would be 6.

Put the reference for your text at the end of your information entry for cross reference.

Advantages

- Allows comment or explanation on a thought in greater detail.
- Helps to keep information about a word or passage from being forgotten.

Disadvantage

- Has a limited use.

Highlighting and Underlining Method

Emphasise just one word or phrase in the section. Just enough to make the thought that you want to stand out.

This can be done in a number of ways:

- A neat line under the word - preferably in a colour to suit your total marking system.
- Keep a pencil or fine biro - only one colour just for underlining.
- If you are very neat and careful, a very effective way is to just write over the letters to thicken them a little BUT test the steadiness of your hand and the suitability of the pen on something first.

Advantages

- Reminds you of the important part of the text.
- It makes that part stand out.

Disadvantage

- Too much, lessens the clarity of the text.

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Subject Lists Method

On a page at the back of your Bible, make lists of texts under a subject heading.

Leave plenty of room so you can keep adding extra texts you find as you read the Bible or listen to sermons.

Add an extra page if you need to.

A mark can be placed alongside the more suitable texts for the topic.

Advantages

- Good personal study.
- A quick source of references from which to pick for a study.
- Does not clutter the margin of your Bible.

Disadvantages

It needs a reasonable amount of space in the back of your Bible.

REQUIREMENT 2: List five guidelines you would consider before starting to mark your Bible

1. Choose the method to suit your requirements.
2. Choose pencils, biros etc. that will not show through the paper.
3. Use only enough marking to achieve your aim.
4. Keep as simple as possible. Do not over mark.
5. Plan how you will proceed with each method before you start.
6. If using colours, make sure one colour is distinct from another.
7. If not enough room in the back of your Bible, carefully glue in extra sheets. Only glue along one edge preferably near the bound edge of the page.

REQUIREMENT 3:

- a. **What method would you follow for giving a Bible study and why?**
- b. **Mark your Bible for two topics/subjects using this method.**

Hint: Consider the various advantages and disadvantages outlined in Requirement 1

REQUIREMENT 4:

- a. **What methods would you use for ongoing devotional study and why?**
- b. **And mark your Bible for two topics/subjects using one of these methods, and using a minimum of ten texts each.**

Hint: Consider the various advantages and disadvantages outlined in Requirement 1