

Getting Started

The following chart summarizes vocabulary strategies that will help you start some good habits as you begin to work through this textbook.

Strategies for Learning New Vocabulary

1. **Mark the reading passage.** Highlight, underline, or circle key words that are unfamiliar to you in the passage. Read the passage again. If you still do not understand the word, write it down, look it up in a dictionary, or ask your teacher.
2. **Select the words you want to learn.** Be sure to choose the most important words for your study of the Bible and theology.
3. **Look at vocabulary in context.** Examine each new word as it appears in the context of the reading passages. Also, note words that are used repeatedly within chapters. This may indicate their importance. For each new word you record in your notebook, include the book or article where it can be found and the page numbers.
4. **Complete the vocabulary exercises in this textbook.** Work through the exercises carefully and consistently. Try to complete each assignment. If you have questions, refer to a dictionary, or ask your classmates or teacher for help.
5. **Set a regular time each day for vocabulary learning.** Your learning will be more effective if you study every day for short periods of time rather than studying once or twice a week for longer periods of time.
6. **Use a vocabulary system consistently.** Use vocabulary cards, a vocabulary notebook, a combination of both, or develop your own system.
7. **Carry your vocabulary notes with you.** Write down important words that you discuss in class. Make notes so that you can review when you study at the library, wait for the bus, or study with a friend.
8. **Work with a partner.** Review your general and theological vocabulary with a partner. Work together on linking your new words to familiar concepts, reviewing definitions, or writing the new words in sentences.
9. **Use your new words in speaking and writing whenever possible.** This will help you to remember the words more easily so that you will not have to look them up again in a dictionary.
10. **Evaluate your progress.** Check to see if you are accomplishing your goals. You may want to ask a friend to check up on you once a week to help assure that you are making progress.

Figure I.1: Vocabulary Strategies