

# **Bible Study Skills:** *Learning to Outline Scripture*



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# Outlining Scripture

**Making a Scripture Diagram of a Bible passage enabled us to see the ideas presented there and how they work together. Now, using that diagram as a worksheet, we are able to outline the passage. A Scripture Outline is a simple framework for presenting the ideas of a Bible passage. It identifies the subject and lists the main and sub points of a passage in a systematic and logical manner. The outline can be embedded in the Scripture Diagram, or it can be created as a separate, stand-alone document.**

# The Scripture Outline Format

The Scripture Outline uses the standard form of outlining, as follows:

## Title

### I. First main point

#### A. Sub point #1

1. Detail

2. Detail

#### B. Sub point #2

1. Detail

2. Detail

### II. Second main point

...Sub points with details...

...Last main point

...Sub points with details...

# Constructing A Scripture Outline

- 1. List the propositions found in the Scripture Diagram of the given passage, following the standard outline format. The primary propositions are the main points of the outline, and the propositions supporting the primary ones are the sub points. Any propositions supporting a supporting proposition (sub point) become the details recorded in the outline.**
- 2. From the main points of the outline, determine the central theme or subject of the passage. The subject can be stated in the form of a question that each of the main points answers. Assign a keyword which classifies the main points and clarifies how they work together to support the theme of the passage.**
- 3. Assign a title to the passage using or relating to the keyword.**

# Identifying The Subject

After we record, in outline format, the propositions found in the Scripture Diagram of a Bible passage, we must identify the subject of the passage. The subject or theme of a Bible passage is what the passage is talking about. To identify the subject of a Bible passage, it is helpful to pose the subject as a question. The subject (theme) should be posed as a question that can be answered by the main points of our outline. To help discover how the main points can answer this question, think of and assign a Keyword which would classify these points, and clarify how they work (link) together to support the subject of the passage.

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

## EZRA 7:10 Text

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*

## EZRA 7:10 Scripture Diagram

| (Reason)

For Ezra had prepared his heart

to seek the law of the LORD

and

to do it

and

to teach in Israel statutes and judgments

# Embedded Outline of Ezra 7:10

## EZRA 7:10 Text

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*

## EZRA 7:10 Scripture Diagram with an Embedded Outline

| (Reason)

For Ezra had prepared his heart

- I. to seek the law of the LORD  
and
- II. to do it  
and
- III. to teach in Israel
  - A. statutes  
and
  - B. judgments

# Standard Outline of Ezra 7:10

Recording the propositions in the Scripture Diagram in standard outline format we have:

**Title: ?**

**Keyword: ?**

- I. Setting the heart to seek God's law
- II. Setting the heart to do God's law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God's law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments

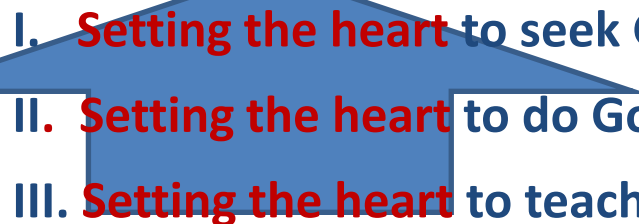


# Outline of Ezra 7:10

What keyword links the main points together?

Title: ?

Keyword: ?

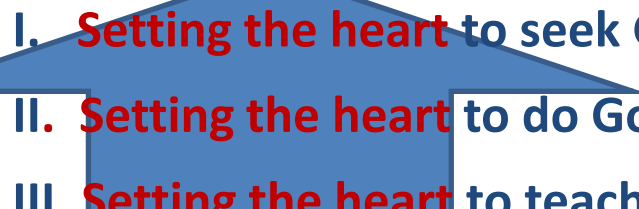
- 
- I. **Setting the heart** to seek God's law
  - II. **Setting the heart** to do God's law
  - III. **Setting the heart** to teach God's law in Israel
    - A. His statutes
    - B. His judgments

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

**Preparations** is a word that serves to link the main points together?

Title: ?

Keyword: **Preparations**

- 
- I. **Setting the heart** to seek God's law
  - II. **Setting the heart** to do God's law
  - III. **Setting the heart** to teach God's law in Israel
    - A. His statutes
    - B. His judgments

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

What is the theme or subject of this outline? What question is answered by the phrase “setting the heart,” and contains or relates to the word preparations?

Title: ?

Keyword: Preparations

- I. Setting the heart to seek God’s law
- II. Setting the heart to do God’s law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God’s law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

How about this one: What preparations did Ezra make to serve the Lord?

Title: **What preparations did Ezra make to serve the Lord?**

Keyword: Preparations

- I. Setting the heart to seek God's law
- II. Setting the heart to do God's law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God's law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

What would be a good title for this outline?

**Title:** What preparations did Ezra make to serve the Lord?

**Keyword:** Preparations

- I. Setting the heart to seek God's law
- II. Setting the heart to do God's law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God's law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

Let's turn that question into a statement. Now we have our title:

**Title:** Preparations In Serving The Lord/Ready To Serve The Lord

**Keyword:** Preparations

- I. Setting the heart to seek God's law
- II. Setting the heart to do God's law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God's law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments

# Outline of Ezra 7:10

We could use either title, but I'll use this one:

Title: **READY TO SERVE THE LORD**

Keyword: Preparations

- I. Setting the heart to seek God's law
- II. Setting the heart to do God's law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God's law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments

# Final Outline of Ezra 7:10

## READY TO SERVE THE LORD

EZRA 7:10

(Keyword: Preparations)

- I. Setting the heart to seek God's law
- II. Setting the heart to do God's law
- III. Setting the heart to teach God's law in Israel
  - A. His statutes
  - B. His judgments



# Outline of Psalm 117

## Psalm 117 Text

*1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.*

*2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.*

## Psalm 117 Scripture Diagram

*1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations:*

*praise him, all ye people.*

**| (Result/Reason/Explanation)**

*2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us:*

**| (Combination)**

*and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever.*

*Praise ye the LORD.*

# Embedded Outline of Psalm 117

## Psalm 117 Text

*1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.*

*2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.*

## Psalm 117 Scripture Diagram with Embedded Outline

**1**     **I.** *O praise the LORD, all ye nations:*

**II.** *praise him, all ye people.*

          | (Result/Reason/Explanation)

**2**     **A.** *For his merciful kindness is great toward us:*

          | (Combination)

**B.** *and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever.*

**III.** *Praise ye the LORD.*

# Standard Outline of Psalm 117

Recording the propositions in the Scripture Diagram in standard outline format we have:

**Title: ?**

**Keyword: ?**

- I. Praise the Lord all nations**
- II. Praise the Lord all people**
  - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us**
  - B. For His truth endures forever**
- III. Praise the Lord everyone**

# Outline of Psalm 117

**What keyword links the main points together?**

**Title: ?**

**Keyword: ?**

- I. Praise the Lord all nations**
- II. Praise the Lord all people**
  - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us**
  - B. For His truth endures forever**
- III. Praise the Lord everyone**

# Outline of Psalm 117

The phrase “Praise the Lord” seems to be the focus. But it seems the subject is a little more specific than that. What keyword links the main points with those “For” statements?

Title: ?

Keyword: ?

- 
- I. **Praise the Lord** all nations
  - II. **Praise the Lord** all people
    - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us
    - B. For His truth endures forever
  - III. **Praise the Lord** everyone

# Outline of Psalm 117

The phrase “Praise the Lord” seems to be the focus. But it seems the subject is a little more specific than that. What keyword links the main points with those “For” statements? How about **Reasons**?

Title: ?

Keyword: **Reasons**

- 
- I. **Praise the Lord** all nations
  - II. **Praise the Lord** all people
    - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us
    - B. For His truth endures forever
  - III. **Praise the Lord** everyone

# Outline of Psalm 117

**What is the theme or subject of this outline? What question is answered by the phrase “Praise the Lord” and “For” and contains or relates to the word Reasons?**

**Title: ?**

**Keyword: Reasons**

- I. Praise the Lord all nations**
- II. Praise the Lord all people**
  - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us**
  - B. For His truth endures forever**
- III. Praise the Lord everyone**

# Outline of Psalm 117

**How about this one: Why should everyone praise the Lord?**

**Title: Why should everyone praise the Lord?**

**Keyword: Reasons**

- I. Praise the Lord all nations
- II. Praise the Lord all people
  - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us
  - B. For His truth endures forever
- III. Praise the Lord everyone



# Outline of Psalm 117

Let's turn that question into a statement. Now we have our title:

Title: REASONS EVERYONE SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD

Keyword: Reasons

- I. Praise the Lord all nations
- II. Praise the Lord all people
  - A. For His merciful kindness is great toward us
  - B. For His truth endures forever
- III. Praise the Lord everyone

# Final Outline of Psalm 117

## REASONS EVERYONE SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD

### PSALM 117

(Keyword: Reasons)

- I. Praise the Lord all nations
- II. Praise the Lord all people
  - A. His merciful kindness is great toward us
  - B. His truth endures forever
- III. Praise the Lord!