How To Study the Bible Topical Study: Hospitality

Step 1:

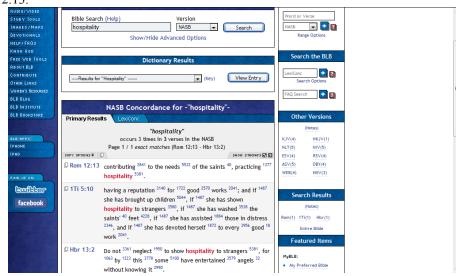
Look up "Hospitality" in an exhaustive concordance. Make sure that the concordance you are using matches the Bible translation we use.

For this example I will be using <u>http://www.blueletterbible.org</u>, but the steps will be similar in a paper concordance.

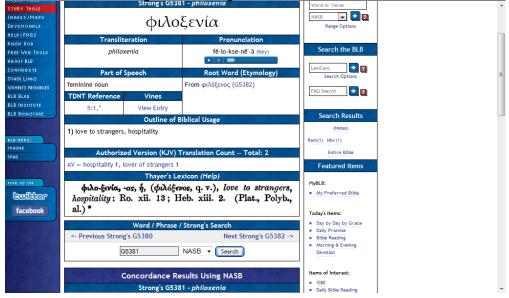
a. Type hospitality into the search box and choose your translation (note: the search is connected with *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* so in order to use this feature you must select either NASB or KJV)



b. Now you have your search results for every time "hospitality" occurs in your Bible. Notice the tiny numbers next to the words; these will link you to more information on the word in the original language. If there is a different number next to the same word, it indicates that a different word was used in the original language. Click on the number next to "hospitality" found in Romans 12:13.



c. You now have a plethora of information about the Greek word "hospitality" including where else this specific word is used, definitions and etymology. This gives you a basic understanding of the topic you are studying. Be sure to read the sections of scripture that contain this word to gain a contextual understanding of the meaning.

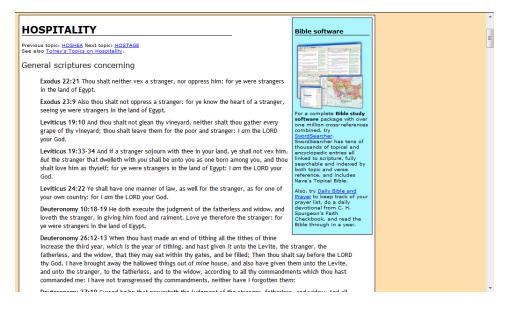


Step Two:

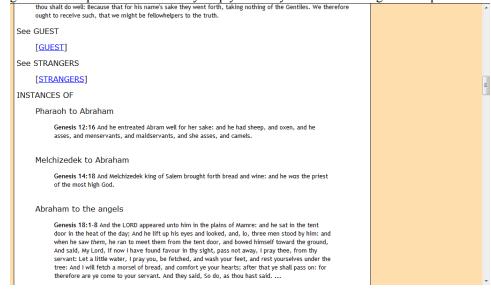
Use a topical Bible to explore the subject further. A topical Bible will contain scripture references to the subject you are studying that may not necessarily contain the word you are looking up and therefore won't come up in a concordance search.

I will be using http://www.naves-topical-bible.com the book form is Nave's Topical Bible.

a. This site is alphabetically searchable, so click on "H" and then find "hospitality" and click to find the entry. Read about all the instances of hospitality listed to gain new insight into the subject.



b. You will notice toward the bottom of the entry, several related topics are listed. These would be great to read up on as well and may help you with your understanding of the topic.



Step 3:

At this point it is a great idea to get an idea of how your topic was understood in the culture of the day. A good way to do this is to look in a Bible Encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary.

For this example I will use <u>http://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/</u>, the text equivalent is the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*.

*This site is also alphabetically searchable. Locate your topic and click on it. You will be provided with a ton of information relative to your topic. Other related topics will be listed. Once you have read this information it would be good to go back and read some of the instances of "hospitality" and see how the cultural information you learned might help you better understand the accounts in scripture.

Hospitality; Host

🚺 📓 🖪 Like 🗟 Send	+1 0	
HOSPITALITY; HOST		

Encyclopedias > International Standard Bible Encyclopedia > Hosp

hos-pi-tal"-i-ti, host (philoxenia, "love of strangers," xenos, "guest," "friend"; pandocheus, "innkeeper"):

1. Among Nomads:

1. Among Nomads: When the civilization of a people has advanced so far that some traveling has become necessary, but not yet so far that traveling by individuals is a usual thing, then hospitality is a virtue indispensable to the life of the people. This stage of culture was that represented in ancient Palestine and the stage whose customs are still preserved among the present-day rabs of the desert. Hospitality is regarded as a light by the traveler, to whom it never occurs to thank his host as if for a favor. And hospitality is granted as a duty by the host, who himself may very soon be dependent on some one else's hospitality. But none the less, both in Old Testament times and today, the granting of that right is surrounded by an etiguetite that has made Arabian hospitality so justly celebrated. The traveler is made the literal master of the house during his stay, his host will perform for him the most service litery. For whom it have the present eavy the present eavy that will be not in the stage where iterations and will not even sit in his presence without express request. To the use of the guest is given over all that his host possesses, stopping not even short of the honor of wile of daughter. " Be we not all, say the poor nomads, "guests of Ullah? Has God given unto them, God's guest shall partake with them thereof."

If they will not for God render his own, it should not go well with them' " (Doughty, Arabia Deserta, I, 228). The host is in duty bound to defend his guest against all comers and to lay aside any personal halred--the murderer of father is safe as the guest of the son.

2. In the Old Testament:

An exquisite example of the etiquette of hospitality is found in Genesis 18:1-8. The very fact that the three strangers have passed by Abraham's door gives him the privilege of entertaining them. When he sees them approaching her runs to beg the honor of their furning in to him, with oriental courtesy depreciates the feast that he is about to lay before them as "a morsel of bread," and

Free Newsletters Bible Study Tools Weekly Today's Bible Reading - NIV Today's Bible Reading - ESV Today's Bible Reading - KJV Today's Bible Reading - NAS Christianity.com Foundations Weekly Christian Living Connection - Christianity.com Live It! Beyond Sunday – BibleStudyTools More Newsletters

enter your e-mail address Subscribe To receive email newsletters, updates, and special offers from BibleStudyTools, select your newsletter(s), enter your email address and hit "Subsoribe". Privacy Policy / Terms of Use

