

EQUIP CLASS

Help Me Study the Bible



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 **There is one meaning and many applications.**

- **Meaning** - What did the author intend to communicate by this passage?
- **Application** - How does this passage apply to my life today?

2 **Context is king.**

- **Historical** Context: What historical background is important for your passage?
- **Literary** Context: 1) What genre of Scripture is your passage? 2) What precedes and follows your specific passage?
- **Theological** Context: Where am I in the storyline of Scripture

3 **Scripture is its best interpreter.**

Use other Scripture to make sense of what you are reading, especially when it is confusing. Remember that Scripture will not contradict itself.

4 **The Bible is about God.**

Scripture is about our Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Yet, the climax of the work of the Triune God centers on the Son, Jesus Christ, especially in his death & resurrection.

3 Steps in Every Bible Study Method



1

Observation

What do I see?

2

Interpretation

What does it mean?

3

Application

Why does it matter?

Storyline of Scripture

- Creation: God's Kingdom Established in Creation (what is our purpose?)
- Fall: Rebellion in the Kingdom at the Fall (what is our problem?)
- Redemption: God initiates, accomplishes and spreads his redemption
 - Israel: The King Chooses Israel, Initiating Redemption (what is the solution?)
 - Jesus: King Jesus Comes, Accomplishing Redemption (what is the solution?)
 - Church: The Mission of the Church, Spreading the News of the King (how will this redemption spread?)
- New Creation: King Jesus Returns, Completing Redemption with a New Creation (how will the story end?)

H. E. A. R. God's Word

H

Highlight

What sticks out to me?

E

Explain

What does it mean?

A

Apply

Why does it matter?

R

Respond

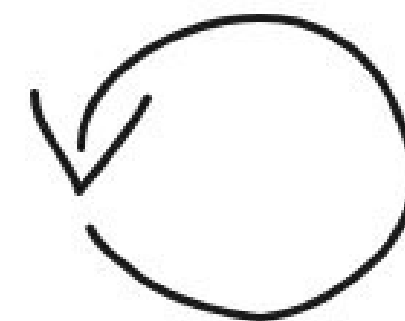
What must I do?

1

Questions to Consider

- What words or themes does the author repeat?
- What kind of comparisons does the author make?
- Does the author use figures of speech?
- Does the author quote or refer to an OT passage?
- Is there a problem the author is addressing?
- Does the author indicate a desired response?
- Who is doing what?
- What is being talked about? What is the topic or subject?
- How do clauses and phrases fit together?
- What is going on in conversations?
- What does the author place in lists?
- What is the emotional tone?

What does this passage say?





Questions to Consider

- **Who is the author?**
- **When was the author writing?**
- **Who is the audience?**
- **What situation is the author addressing?**
- **What is the immediate context?**
- **How does it fit within the overall structure of the book?**
- **Where does it fit within the storyline of Scripture?**

What does this passage mean to its original audience?



3

Questions to Consider

- **What does the passage tell us about God's character? His attributes?**
- **Are any of God's actions highlighted in the passage?**
- **Do you learn anything about his redemptive plan in the passage?**
- **How does this passage bear witness to what God was and is doing in Christ?**

What does this passage tell us about God?



4

Questions to Consider

- **What does this passage say about humanity made in God's image?**
- **What does this passage say about humanity's fallen nature?**
- **What does this passage say about who we are in Christ?**
- **How does this passage point to humanity's need for a savior?**
- **What response does this passage require of humanity? God's people?**
- **What future hope does this passage give to humanity?**

What does this passage tell us about man?



5

Questions to Consider

- **Know:** How does that shape what I believe about God—his character and ways? About myself? About others? About the world?
- **Be:** How does God want to change my heart, affections, and desires? How does this increase or stir my love for God and for others?
- **Do:** How does this passage call me to respond in repentance or obedience to God? What changes in my thoughts, words, or actions do I need to make today in light of this passage?

What does this passage demand of me?



6

Questions to Consider

- **Family:** How does this passage call me to love or relate those closest to me? Parents? Spouse? Children? Siblings? Extended family?
- **Social Circle:** How does this passage apply to those within my social circles? Friends? Co-workers?
- **Local Church:** What does this passage call me to think or treat others within my local church?
- **Mission:** How does this call me to love and serve people in my community, those in need, far from Christ?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?





Questions to Consider

- **How should the truths revealed inform the way I pray to God? Are there specific things to praise God for, ask God for, or to confess to God?**
- **Are there any truths from the Scripture that I need to pray over my family, my church, my friends, my community, or my unbelieving friends?**

How does this passage
prompt me to pray?

