

Prepare	<p>ASK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On which text will I focus? What presuppositions do I have about the text? Pray that God would open your heart to the text <p>DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Am I submitted to the Lord and dependant on the Spirit as I approach this study? Am I ready to apply the truth I find? Read the entire book aloud. Approach the text with a teachable spirit
Discover Background	<p>A. Study the overall historical context of the book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the author? When was it written? What is going on historically during this time? <p>ASK</p> <p>B. Study the immediate historical context of the passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there cultural practices, laws (religious or secular) that may relate to the passage? <p>ASK</p> <p>C. Study the literary context of the book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of literature is this? What are the main themes of the surrounding passages? <p>ASK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Background Commentaries, Bible Atlases or Bible dictionaries for Historical Studies Record your findings Who, What, When, Where, Why and How <p>DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a context map of surrounding main ideas Consult Bible dictionaries or handbooks for Literary context
Observe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the backbone of the passage? Look at several translations side by side Identify Keywords Look at the structure of the sentences noting how the ideas are tied together Create an provisional outline of the passage <p>ASK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there words or phrases which are unclear in the passage? <p>DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify differences in the translations Look for exhortations, quotes of scripture, transitions, contrasts, lists, comparisons, etc Identify terms that you may want to tune into for word studies
Word Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there words or phrases which are unclear in the passage? Consult a concordance to see how the word is used elsewhere in scripture first by the author, then by others. <p>ASK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask what does this mean to the ancient audience Are there questions which the author is answering? <p>DO</p> <p>Write a summary of the principles as they apply to the ancient audience. E.g. "Paul instructs the Corinthian believers to..."</p>
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Apply	<p>ASK</p> <p>Write a statement or challenging question about how you or your audience could apply the truth being taught.</p> <p>Pray that God would help you make the Truth real in your life.</p> <p>DO</p> <p>Write a statement or challenging question about how you or your audience could apply the truth being taught.</p> <p>Pray that God would help you make the Truth real in your life.</p>

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General Bible Study Principles

Depend on the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is our teacher, depend on Him for revealing truth and how it should be applied in your life. (John 15:26, 1 Corinthians 2:12)
Be willing to submit to the text in obedience, be humble in heart

Context Rules

“Never read a Bible verse”. Always read the surrounding context of a passage keeping in mind the historical and literal context.

Scripture interprets Scripture

Keep the broad context of the whole Bible in mind. Seek understanding from other places where a principle is taught. Interpret in light of progressive revelation.

Be Intentional

Always seek the author’s intended meaning not a special “personal” or “spiritual” meaning.

Consider your pre-understanding

Have a commitment to seeking the truth of the passage you are studying instead of a commitment to personal ideas and interpretations which you carry with you from past experience, culture, etc. Come to the text with a teachable spirit.

Interpret scripture literally

Read and interpret the text how the author indented. Be aware of the genre of the text you are studying and interpret according to principles surrounding the literary type.

Never build doctrine from obscure passages

Do not build doctrine from obscure passages. Doctrine is taught clearly in the Scriptures.

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