

Prepare	ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On which text will I focus? What presuppositions do I have about the text? 	<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?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray that God would open your heart to the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the entire book (aloud if possible.) Approach the text with a teachable spirit
Discover Background	ASK	A. Study the overall historical context of the book	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the author? When was it written? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To whom was it written What is going on historically during this time?
	ASK	B. Study the immediate historical context of the passage	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there cultural practices or laws (religious or secular) that may relate to the passage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there historical events being referenced by the author?
Observe	ASK	C. Study the literary context of the book	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of literature is this? What are the main themes of the book as a whole? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main themes of the surrounding passages?
	DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Background Commentaries, Bible Atlases or Bible dictionaries for Historical Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Bible dictionaries or handbooks for Literary context
	ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the main idea of the passage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who, What, When, Where, Why and How
Word Studies	DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Keywords Look at the structure of the sentences noting how the ideas are tied together Create a provisional outline of the passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for exhortations, quotes of scripture, transitions, contrasts, lists, comparisons, etc Identify terms that you may want to tune into for word studies
	ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there words or phrases which are unclear in the passage? 	
	DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at several translations side by side & Identify differences Consult a concordance to see how the word is used elsewhere in scripture first by the author, then by others. 	
	ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there words or phrases which are unclear in the passage? 	
Discover Principles	ASK	A. Identify principles directed at the ancient audience	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask what does this mean to the ancient audience Are there questions which the author is answering? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the author trying to convey to the ancient audience?
	DO	Write a summary of the principles as they apply to the ancient audience. E.g. "Paul instructs the Corinthian believers to..."	
	ASK	B. Identify differences between our culture and the ancient culture	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the differences between us and the ancient audience? What are the similarities? 	
	ASK	C. Identify "timeless truths"	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the general principles being taught Check your discoveries against reliable commentaries and theological dictionaries. 		
Apply	DO	Write a summary statement of the general principles being taught as they apply to everyone for all time. E.g. "God expects Christians to..."	
	ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what specific ways does this truth apply to our daily lives in our culture? In what ways do I need to change my behavior or thinking to be in line with this Truth? 	
	DO	Write a statement or challenging question about how you or your audience could apply the truth being taught. Pray that God would help you make the Truth real in your life.	
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General Bible Study Principles

Fear God & Understand where the Bible Came From

Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. Have a such reverence for God that you don't misrepresent Him.
Understand how God delivered the Bible to us; 100% God, 100% man.

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 in Scripture 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 intended.
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

Doctrine is taught clearly in the Scriptures.

Bible Study Books:

Grasping God's Word - Duvall & Hays

How To Study your Bible – Kay Arthur

How To Read the Bible for All it's Worth – Fee & Stuart

Greek for the Rest of Us – William D. Mounce

Web Resources

Bible.org – home of the NET Bible & Free online courses through the Theology Program

BiblicalTraining.Org – Free online classes.

e-Sword.net – Free Bible Study Software

Str.org – Resources for apologetics.

InTheWord.GiantNoggin.Com – Justin's Blog links to these and other resources.

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