



HOW TO STUDY
YOUR BIBLE

THE GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY

IS NOT

to find a unique meaning, to find something no one else has ever found.

IS NOT

so we can know more about the Bible.

IS TO

understand the plain and original meaning so we can apply it to our lives and become like Jesus!

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

²²But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

James 1:22

PRECONCEIVED PREJUDICES

1. The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God.
2. I know nothing about this passage.
3. A text can never mean what it never meant! A text can have several applications, but only one meaning based upon the author's intention. This is wildly important when we move to applying God's Word to our lives.

TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

Good Bible translation. No paraphrases!

Bible Handbook or Encyclopedia

Bible Dictionary

Notepad

Bible Commentaries

WAYS TO FILL YOUR TOOLBOX

Websites

- biblestudytools.com
- biblegateway.com
- biblehub.com
- blueletterbible.com
- internationalstandardbible.com

Phone or tablet app

- YouVersion
- Logos
- Blue Letter Bible

Bible Software

- Logos (Free Standard Version)
- Accordance
- QuickVerse

Purchased Books

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DIVING INTO THE WORD**OBSERVATION > INTERPRETATION > APPLICATION****OBSERVATION**

Foundational stage of study in which you wrap your mind around basic details of the passage and know what it says.

1. Read and re-read the passage
2. Establish the boundaries of the passage to study
3. Ask the 5 investigative questions
4. Who are the main characters and how are they described?
5. What is happening in the passage? Look for key words, promises, commands, conditions, etc.
6. Where do the events occur? Look for regions, cities, places.
7. When does the passage take place? Look for times of the year, day or night, around festivals or feasts.
8. Why do the events in the passage happen?

MAJOR TAKE-AWAYS FROM OBSERVATION STAGE

You have a good understanding of what is happening in the passage, have a good understanding of the context, and have identified historical and cultural background you may need to investigate further during interpretation stage.

DIVING INTO THE WORD

OBSERVATION > INTERPRETATION > APPLICATION

INTERPRETATION

In this stage of study, the text will begin to blossom before your eyes. You will determine what the text meant to the original hearers. Using Bible study tools, you will unpack details and answer questions you noted during the observation stage, i.e. historical and cultural background, what do significant words mean, what is the significance of times and places.

1. What is the background information of the book; who wrote the book, to whom was it written, when was it written, and why was it written?
2. What type of literature is the passage I am studying? Is it poetry, or history, or prophetic, etc.
3. What is the structural and historical context of the passage? In the broader context of the story and history, what was happening? Who was the dominant world power?
4. What do I need to know about cultural concepts? How did the readers understand certain practices or view certain occurrences?
5. Are there biblical cross-references related to the passage I am studying? Do other Gospels contain the story? If an Old Testament passage is quoted, what was its original context and meaning?
6. Based on my study, what do I think the passage meant to the original hearers?

MAJOR TAKE-AWAYS FROM INTERPRETATION STAGE

You have a good understanding of the historical and cultural context of the book and passage. You also understand the meaning of particular words or phrases in the passage and are able to explain the author's intention in writing the passage. You will be able to summarize the main point of the passage.

DIVING INTO THE WORD

OBSERVATION > INTERPRETATION > APPLICATION

APPLICATION

In this stage of study, you will ask and answer the “So what” question. This is where you will apply the original meaning to your life and obey the truth.

1. What are the timeless theological principles contained in the passage?
2. How has this passage challenged or moved me?
3. What personal issues or sins are confronted by the passage?
4. How does this passage challenge me to change my thoughts or behavior?
5. What are short-and long-range commitments I can make because of how this passage has spoken to me?

MAJOR TAKE-AWAYS FROM APPLICATION STAGE

You have a better understanding of how this passage impacts your life and helps you become more like Jesus. You understand how the truth of the passage impacts your relationship with the Lord, His church, and other people.

POP QUIZ

What is the goal Of Bible study?

The goal of Bible study is to understand the plain and original meaning so we can apply it to our lives and become like Jesus!



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