

ENGAGE THE BIBLE

PRAYER - INVITE THE SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY

OBSERVATION

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

1. ASK INVESTIGATIVE QUESTIONS:

WHO is speaking?
WHO are the main people?
WHO is being spoken to?

WHAT is happening?
WHAT is the scene?
WHAT is the cultural context of the passage?

WHERE is the passage taking place?

WHEN did or will the events take place?

HOW did the people respond?
HOW did Jesus react?

2. LOOK FOR GRAMMATICAL CONNECTIONS:

REPEATED WORDS
COMPARISONS
CONTRAST
CAUSE & EFFECT

3. IDENTIFY KEY WORDS

INTERPRETATION

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. DEVELOP **QUESTIONS** based on the text. Ask what is the significance of your main observations.

2. IMAGINE THE **PERSPECTIVE** of the people in the scene. If Jesus spoke, why did he say what he said?

3. **ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS** from the text.

4. **SUMMARIZE THE PASSAGE** in one sentence.

APPLICATION

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN FOR ME?

1. HOW DO YOU **RESPOND** to what the passage is saying? Does it challenge how you see the world?

2. PUT INTO **PRACTICE** is there a central truth that you need to apply?

3. GOING **FORWARD** how does this passage help us live the gospel?

4. **PRAY THAT GOD** will help you believe & obey.

BIBLE GENRES

Understanding biblical genres helps us gain a head start at the meaning of the text. Genres also show how God's word is wide, varied, deep, and worthy of a lifetime of study.

1. BIBLICAL NARRATIVE

Books that tell the story of what happened. Sometimes there are spiritual lessons, and sometimes we simply gain the historical context of God's people.

OT: Genesis-Esther NT: Acts

2. POETRY

Vivid figurative language, and repeated ideas, sometimes with the same words, other times with synonyms. The Psalms and other poetic sections of the Bible communicate ideas, but they especially express emotion.

OT: Psalms

3. WISDOM LITERATURE

Collections of wise sayings meant to shape the moral and ethical lives of their readers. They cover practical topics.

OT: Job, Proverbs, & Ecclesiastes NT: James

4. PROPHECY

God's word to His covenant people, written during periods of spiritual and national danger. We must read as God's challenge to the original audiences, and then we apply the lessons to our day.

MAJOR PROPHETS: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, & Daniel

MINOR PROPHETS: Hosea—Malachi

5. GOSPELS

The Gospels are first-hand written accounts about the life and teachings of Jesus. Read as faith documents, announcing a world-changing event centered in the person of Jesus.

NT: Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John

6. EPISTLES (letters)

Letters written to specific individuals or groups of people for specific and varied purposes. Mostly written by the apostle Paul and include the foundations for the Christian faith.

NT: Romans—Jude

7. APOCALYPSE

The book of Revelation and parts of the book of Daniel are revelations. Like other prophecies, they proclaim urgent messages to their original audiences, in particular warning and comfort.

OT: Daniel NT: Revelation