

3 Steps of Bible Study

Bible doctrine is our only source of spiritual nourishment for growth. It tells us everything we need to handle life's problems and is more valuable than any tangible possession we may have. If possible have a regular, private place for your Bible studies. Before each study ask God to give you a spirit of humility while reading His word and guide your heart to comprehending, accepting and practicing His precious truth. Let the Bible interpret and prove the Bible. Don't look for what you want to prove; look for what the Bible actually proves. The Bible does not contradict itself! Base your study on scriptural knowledge that you already understand. What do you know up to this point in time? Don't bring your own personal assumptions and preconceived notions into your understanding or conclusions. These Three steps will get the Word into your life.

<div>STEP 1→</div> OBSERVATION <i>What does the text say? (Ps.119:18)</i>	<div>STEP 2→</div> INTERPRETATION <i>What does the text mean?</i>	<div>STEP 3→</div> APPLICATION <i>What am I supposed to do? (2Tm.3:16-17)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We look at the text and learn what we are looking at. Here we focus on the details of the text which is analysis. <p>What are the details we should focus on?:</p> <p>VOCABULARY is the key to successful communication and accurate thinking. Our thinking is limited. Our minds organize vocabulary based on categories. God designed our minds to function and learn in terms of categories which organizes our thinking and helps us with remembering so we can recall.</p> <p>TYPE OF LITERATURE such as poetry, history, narrative, expository, or prophecy.</p> <p>MOOD OR SETTING tells us what is going on and where the action is taking place. What is the attitude of the speaker(s) or hearer(s) (angry, confused, humble, teachable, etc)?</p> <p>STRUCTURE - is there comparison, contrast, cause-effect, etc?</p> <p>GRAMMAR - Notice the nouns, subjects, verbs, clauses, conjunctions, participles, etc. For example, what is the main verb? In a passive voice, who performs the action of the verb? Are terms used in a general or in a technical way?</p> <p>Look for things that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized Repeated Alike Unlike True-to-life Etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The more work we do in OBSERVATION the less work we will need to do in INTERPRETATION. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hermeneutics</i> is the science of interpretation which works to discover the author's one intended meaning based on analysis of the grammar, and the history of the time. We seek to understand what the author intended to communicate. We do not seek what it means to me (relativism), or to understand what it meant to the original audience. It is not subject to our impressions, feelings, emotions, or limited understanding. This is not to say that it is always discovered. Sometimes we hear people say something like, "there are many different views for this passage," as if by saying that it could mean anything. But that is just a rationalization people use to avoid the meaning of the passage. There are legitimate disagreements, and when there are, one is correct, and the others are wrong. Through careful study under the teaching of God the Holy Spirit we can discover the meaning of the passage. Typically, where the plain sense of scripture makes good sense, there is no reason to seek any other sense. This means that you should interpret the Bible in the same way you take any other literature. This is called the grammatical-historical (normal) interpretation. This approach uses the standard norms of everyday speech. Another reason we know this approach proves to be proper is because prophecies that have been fulfilled, for example, concerning Christ's first coming, were fulfilled using normal speech. <p>PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible must be understood in light of the times in which it was written. The Bible must be understood in light of the laws of logic and meaning. We must first have an accurate translation before we can have an accurate interpretation. We must have an accurate translation before we can have an accurate application. <p>COMMON MISTAKES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distorting the text (2Pe.3:16) Mis-reading the text Contradicting the text (Ge.3:1-4) Subjectivism (the Bible is objective truth) Relativism (the Bible does not change its meaning over time). Barriers: language, culture, time/history, literary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does it affect the way I think? (If we are not thinking correctly, we cannot live correctly). How does it affect the way I view reality? How does it affect my purpose in life. <p>BELIEF DETERMINES BEHAVIOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does this tell me about God's purpose for my life What does this tell me about how God achieves that purpose for my life. What is God's responsibility here and what is my responsibility here? <p>MISAPPLICATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WE do not want to apply specific promises to Israel to church-age believers. Application does not happen by osmosis, but by intent. God enlightens us from the Word, we enact the application with our wills, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to carry out these choices. It is usually best to concentrate on applying one principle at a time. The goal of all application is to glorify God by becoming more like Jesus.