

# SIMPLE BIBLE STUDY STEPS

## 1. PRAY!

2. Read through the passage, then read again slowly while:
3. Marking what is obvious. OBSERVATION: What do you see?

CIRCLE  
REPEATED WORDS/  
PHRASES

- Often reveal main idea
  - Identify theme
  - Include synonyms

CIRCLE KEY WORDS

- Central to understanding
- Passage would not make sense if removed
- Use different colors to identify each word throughout



ASK QUESTIONS: **Who, what, where, when, why, how.** Record in margins, use arrows to connect to answers.

HIGHLIGHT MAIN IDEA(S)

BOX IMPORTANT  
CONNECTIVES,  
PREPOSITIONS,  
CONJUNCTIONS

- Words that connect ideas, phrases
- Indicates reasons, comparisons, contrast, conclusions, means
- Examples: But, therefore, because, with, in, therefore, by, so that, in order that, for, according to

## UNDERLINE VERBS

LIST:

1. Words that needs further definition
2. Theological terms to explore

(Use these lists in the interpretation steps)

# GO DEEPER

## 4. INTERPRETATION: What does it mean/ Dig into the meaning:

- Use a dictionary for meaning of words
- Use a Greek or Hebrew Lexicon for original language meaning of words (Find A Strong's online)
- USE CONTEXT; Context is key to understanding an author's intent. Context literally means "with the text". Read what surrounds the passage—the paragraph before, the chapter, the book.
- Always let SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE first. Look for other places the same author uses key words or phrases—look in the same book then other books by that author. Use cross-references to see where else in the Bible the word is used.
- ALWAYS LAST: Consult commentaries and articles by pastors and teachers to understand historical and cultural background and meaning, and to affirm or expand your interpretation. DO YUR OWN STUDY FIRST!

## 5. APPLICATION: So what? What does this mean for me/us?

How does it apply to life?

- What is God calling me to do, to change? Does my perspective need changing? How might He be encouraging me? Etc.
- Listen for God to speak, to reveal, to lead.

Please feel free to reach out to me for information about online study resources or for further descriptions of the steps.

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