

WOMEN IN THE Word

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

THREE BASIC STEPS: OBSERVATION, INTERPRETATION, APPLICATION

Observation – What do I see?

Proverbs 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

We read God's Word

- Prayerfully
- Repeatedly
- Patiently
- Meditatively
- Purposefully

Helpful Tools

- A printed copy of the text
- Colored pencils or highlighters
- A list of God's attributes
- PRAYER

Questions to ASK

- Who wrote it?
- To whom was it written?
- When was it written?
- Where was it written?
- Why was it written?
- What genre is it written in?

Structure and Grammar

- Subject and object
- Verbs and verb tenses
- Modifiers
- Prepositional phrases
- Connectives

Things to See

- Emphasized: Big repeated ideas, author's stated purpose, amount of space given to subject
- Repeated: Terms, phrases, concepts, patterns, repeated scripture from OT by NT
- Related: Lists, points in a row, cause/effect (therefore, so, then, as a result), purpose clause (so that), questions/answers
- Alike: Similes, metaphors (like, to, as, also)
- Unlike: Contrast (but, yet), change of direction

Interpretation - What does it mean?

Psalms 119:130 "The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."

Key Principles

- The Bible is our authority.
- Scripture never contradicts other scripture.
- Scripture has one meaning, but may have many applications.
- Scripture interprets scripture.
- Seek the full counsel of the Word of God in cases of unclear passages.
- Read with genre awareness.
- Read Christocentrically.
- For context, consult neighboring scriptures.
- Interpret literally, unless a figure of speech is called for.
- Ask first, "What did it mean *then*?" not "What does it mean *now*?"
- Guard against reading personal experience into scripture.
- Understand the difference between descriptive and prescriptive.

Gaps

- Time
- Geography
- Customs
- Language
- Writing
- Spiritual

Content and Context

- Content is recorded observation of the scripture
- Context
 - Historical - Studying the setting and circumstance of the written book
 - Cultural - Studying the culture around the written book
 - Grammatical - Studying words and sentences of the scripture
 - Redemptive - Looking for God's redemptive plan unfolding

- Literary - Studying contextually with genre awareness
 - Narrative: True stories of historical events
 - Poetry: Emotional expression to convey truths
 - Wisdom: General principles, not promises
 - Prophecy: God's will spoken for correction, revealing what is unknown
 - Epistles: Apostolic teaching, commands, corrections, exhortation
 - Apocalyptic: End times prophecy

Application – What shall I do?

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 Shema – “Hear and obey”

Application Is:

- Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Obedience
- Not a “to do” list

Effective Application Is:

- Prayerful
- A decision, not an emotion
- A step of faith
- Requires a plan of action
- Complete obedience, not partial

Four Steps in Application:

- KNOW the text and yourself
- RELATE God's Truth to own experience
- MEDITATE on His Word
- PRACTICE obedience

Application Asks:

- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to confess?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How should this scripture change me?

Five Substitutes for Application:

- Interpretation for application
- Superficial obedience for substantive life change
- Rationalization for repentance
- An emotional experience for a volitional decision
- Communication for transformation

James 1:22 “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Results of Application:

- God is glorified.
- We align ourselves with Jesus and receive the fullest life possible.
- The world will see Christ in us, “Imago Dei.”
- We will not get swept away by the deceitfulness of the world.
- Application becomes part of your daily routine.

NOTES



CREEK
WOMEN