

Bible Study Process

1. Pray for Help

- Incline my heart to your testimonies (Ps 119:36).
- Unite my heart to fear your name (Ps 86:11).
- Open my eyes to behold wonderful things in your Word (Ps 119:18).
- Satisfy me with your steadfast love (Ps 90:14).
- Please show me your glory (Ex 33:18; cf. 2 Cor 3:18).

2. Consider the Context

- What kind of literature is this?
- Who wrote this and what were the circumstances of their life at the time?
- What do the surrounding passages say about this text?
- How does the whole Bible help me understand this passage?

3. Observe the Text

- Read the text repeatedly, looking at:
 - The audience receiving this for the first time.
 - The main "characters" of the passage.
 - Where and when the events are taking place.
 - Any repeated words or ideas.
 - Contrasts or comparisons.
 - The grammar (subjects, objects, verb tense, conditional statements, etc.).
 - The logical progression of an argument.
 - Divisions and transition words (but, and, therefore, etc.).
 - Figures of speech, metaphors, idioms, etc.

4. Interpret the Meaning

- What does the text *mean*?
- How does the text show us God's being or character?
- What spiritual need is being presented?
- Is there a sin being confronted?
- How do we see Christ's person and work?
- Do we see any key themes (God's glory, creation, sin, covenant, law, temple, priest, sacrifice, exile and exodus, kingdom of God, sonship, city of God, prophets and prophecy, death and resurrection, people of God, wisdom, holiness, justice, wrath, love, grace and mercy, the gospel, worship, mission, peace, or consummation)?

5. Apply the Text

- What differences should these truths make in our lives?
- Do they encourage faith, repentance, praise, thanksgiving, obedience, or mission?
- Be as specific as possible.

6. Share in Context

- Who do the people around you need to hear?
- What should you say to the hardened unbeliever, unaware unbeliever, curious unbeliever, new believer, suffering believer, wayward believer, or growing believer?

7. Pray for Yourself and Others

- Prayer is taking God's word back to him in rejoicing, repenting, and requesting his work our life and the lives of others.
- Pray also for the people God's has ordained be in your life.