

▲ Personal Bible Study, Part 2 ▲

The Method of Study Template

(Based on Dr. William Larkin's Method, Columbia International University, Columbia, SC)

Read the passage in at least 2 translations.

What questions come up as you read the passage? (Add to the list whenever questions come up.)

Context – “context is king”

Immediate context – what verses and topics covered just before and after the passage?

General context – where does the passage fall in an outline of the book?

What insight do you gain from the context?

History

What circumstances surrounded the writing of the book? (author, date, audience, purpose)

Consider using reference works to dig into the history, culture and religion of the time.

What insight do you gain from the history?

Genre

Is it a historical narrative?

What is the plot?

Who are the characters?

Who is the narrator, who is his audience and what is he trying to say?

What insight do these things give you?

Is it a psalm?

When was it written? By whom? About what issues?

What insight do these things give?

Is it prophecy?

What situation is it addressing?

Is it predicting something, or is it God speaking to the people through His prophet about other issues?

Has it been fulfilled already, or is it referring to something in the future, or some combination of those?

Is it a New Testament epistle? Author typically wrote within a certain format, for a purpose, to a person/people
For what purpose and to whom did this author write?

What insight does this give you?

Is it a parable?

What is the immediate context?

Who are the recipients?

What is the Main Point?

What details are relevant? What details are irrelevant?

How does it compare / contrast with parallel passages?

Literary analysis - Use NASB or ESV for this type of study

What is the main phrase (independent clause) of the passage?

How are the other phrases (dependent clauses) related to it?

What conjunctions tie the passage together (don't use NIV for this)?

How do the conjunctions impact the meaning of the passage?

Are there special features like repetition, switches in verb tense, or switches in person/people addressed or involved (like the switch from "them" to "you")?

What insight do these answers give you into the passage?

Word study

What are the important words or phrases?

How are they translated in different translations?

What does the word in the original language mean? (use a bible dictionary such as Strong's or Thayer's or Brown-Driver-Brigg's, available online, free)

Where else is the original word or phrase used in the Bible?

What insight does this give you into the passage?

Parallel and related passages - TSK, or *Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge* is a good cross reference tool available free online through numerous resources

What passages of the Bible parallel this or deal with the same topic?

What insight do you gain from the parallel and related passages?

Theology

Are there problems that the passage raises when set beside other passages?

How do you resolve them, assuming that the Bible does not contradict itself?

Summary

In one sentence, state the basic meaning of the passage in your own words.

How does this relate to the story / history of salvation?

How does the passage correct an error or problem today?

What promise or encouragement does the passage have for you today?

Application

What concrete change is God asking you to make as a result of studying this passage?

Online Tools: www.blueletterbible.org // www.gotquestions.org