



Growing Together Through God's Word

*Blessed is the one who delights in
the Word of God ... he will become
like a tree planted by streams of water.*

Delighting in God's Word

Observation - *What do I see?*

Interpretation - *What does it mean?*

Application - *How does it work in daily life?*

Step #1 - Observation

What do I see?

Six Questions to Ask Any Scripture Passage

Who? Why?
What? Wherefore ...
Where? So What?
When?

Possible Observations

Context (*Immediate, Book, Whole Bible*)
Key Words/Terms
Verbs/Tenses
Writer's Purpose/Intent
Relationships
Comparisons/Contrasts
Connecting/Transition Words (*and, but,
therefore, so that*)
Figures of Speech/Figurative Language
Questions/Answers
Type of Literature (*Narrative, Historical,
Poetic, Prophetic, Gospel, Epistle*)

Six Things to Look For ...

Things that are **Emphasized**
Things that are **Repeated**
Things that are **Alike**
Things that are **Unlike**
Things that are **True to Life**

Step #2 - Interpretation

What does it mean?

There is only one interpretation ...
(*a passage doesn't mean different
things to different people - one
unchanging biblical truth*)

Principles to Guide You

1. Depend upon the Holy Spirit.

*Remember, He promises to guide you into all
truth.*

2. Approach your study with faith &
openness.

Don't come with preconceived biases.

3. Let the words speak for themselves.

What is the normal understanding?

4. What is the author's intent?

Why did he write what he wrote?

5. What is the context?

*Literary, historical, cultural, geographic,
and theological context?*

6. Compare scripture with scripture.

*Compare the clear scripture with the unclear
- remember, God doesn't contradict Himself*

7. Consult resources

*Don't rush to the resources, but utilize them
to enlighten your study and expand your
understanding. (Bible dictionaries, atlas,
concordances, commentaries)*

Two Helpful Online Sites:

soniclight.com
gotquestions.org

Step #3 - Application

How does it work in my daily life?

... there are many applications!
(*though there is only one
interpretation, there are many
different ways that the biblical truth
applies to our lives*)

Nine Questions to Ponder ...

1. Is there an example for me to follow?

*Think Hebrews 11 ... people who exhibited
faith/obedience.*

2. Is there a sin to avoid?

*Just as there are positive examples, there are
examples of people who didn't trust/obey.*

3. Is there a promise to claim?

*Remember ... don't claim promises specific to
someone (ie: Abraham, Israel). But there
are many general promises God makes to
His children that we can claim.*

4. Is there a prayer to repeat?

*It's a great guide to praying according to
God's Will.*

5. Is there a command to obey?

Be a doer of the Word ... write it down.

6. Is there a condition to meet?

*There are some promises God makes that are
"conditional" and require our obedience.*

7. Is there a verse to memorize?

*Hide God's Word in your heart ... prepare for
the coming battle.*

8. Is there an error to mark?

*This is different from a sin to note - an error
may be doctrinal - errant thinking that is
leading someone astray.*

9. Is there a challenge to face?

*When God speaks, He's calling you to make
adjustments. Are you up for His challenge?*

Let God Speak To You

*What Are You Saying To Me,
Lord?*

Four Keys To Heart Transformation

Know

There are two key "knows" ... (1) Know the Text ... and (2) Know Yourself. It is crucial that we are honest with ourselves and with God for transformation to actually take place. Come humbly before God and listen.

Relate

Relate what God's Word says to your daily life: your attitudes, relationships, priorities, emotions, decisions, struggles. If we desire God to transform us, we must allow God to influence all aspects of our life.

Meditate

Take time to think about God's Word ... slow down ... breathe/Selah ... and let God speak. Chew on the nourishing Word and let it feed your soul.

Practice

The goal of Bible study isn't merely Bible knowledge - it is life transformation. So when God speaks, write it down and set your heart to obey His loving voice.

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(Adapted from Dr. Howard Hendrick's Bible Study Methods Class at DTS and "Living By the Book" by Howard and William Hendricks)