

# How To Study The Bible Guidelines

## I. Observation: What Does the Text Say?

(Read slowly and carefully)

1. **Read the Passage Repeatedly**
    - Read at least 2–3 times
    - Try different translations if possible
  2. **Ask Basic Questions**
    - Who is speaking?
    - Who is the audience?
    - What is happening?
    - Where and when does it occur?
  3. **Notice Key Details**
    - Repeated words or phrases
    - Commands, promises, warnings
    - Cause-and-effect statements
    - Literary forms (story, poetry, prophecy, letter)
  4. **Mark the Text**
    - Underline keywords
    - Circle names, places, themes
    - Note contrasts and comparisons
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## II. Interpretation: What Does the Text Mean?

(Discover the original meaning)

1. **Context**
  - Immediate context (verses before and after)
  - Book context (purpose of the book)
  - Biblical context (how it fits into the whole Bible)
2. **Historical & Cultural Background**
  - Author, audience, historical setting
  - Customs or practices mentioned
3. **Cross-References**
  - Compare with other Scriptures on the same topic
  - Let Scripture interpret Scripture
  - Bridge the Language gap (Greek, Hebrew, etc)

#### 4. **Key Principle**

- What timeless truth is being taught?
- What does this passage reveal about God, humanity, or salvation?