

# **Introduction to Bible Study**



# Today we are going to introduce the 3 Stages of Bible Study.

**Observation   Interpretation   Application**



# Observation

Discovering what  
the passage says.



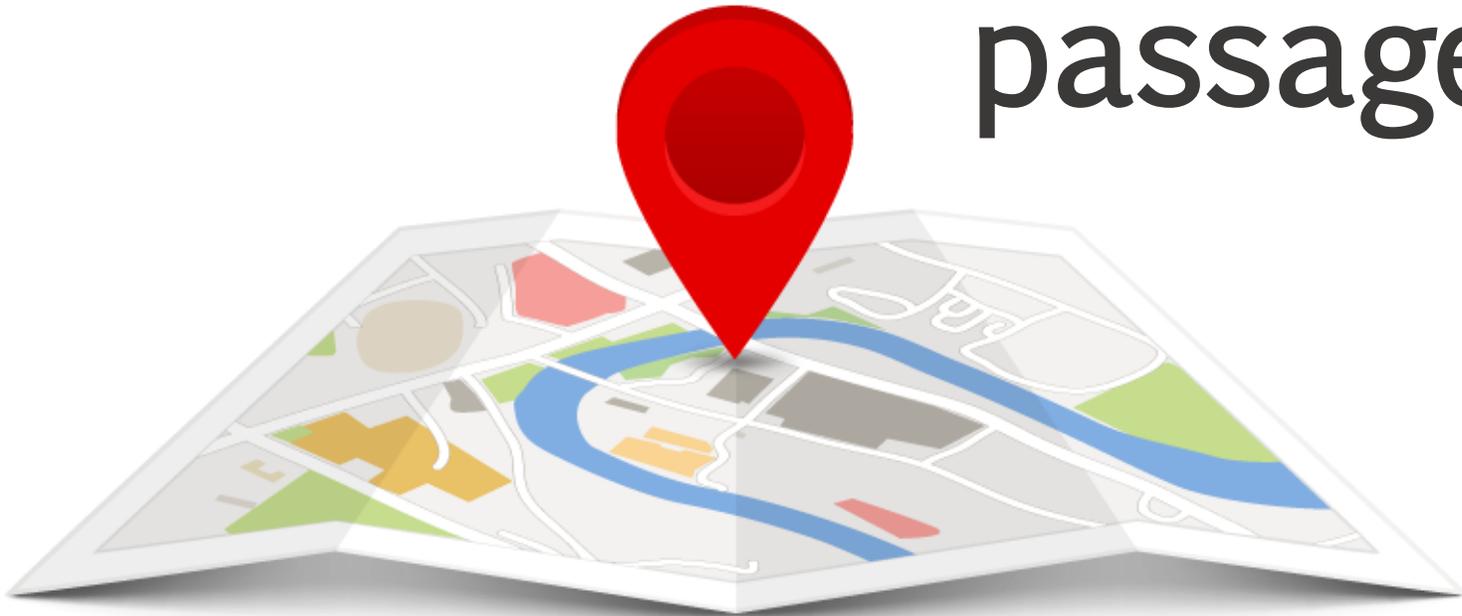
# Interpretation

Determining what  
the passage means.



# Application

Deciding what the  
passage asks of me.



Over the coming 9 weeks  
we will spend 3 weeks on each stage.

**Observation**



**Interpretation**



**Application**



# Observation

Discovering what  
the passage says.

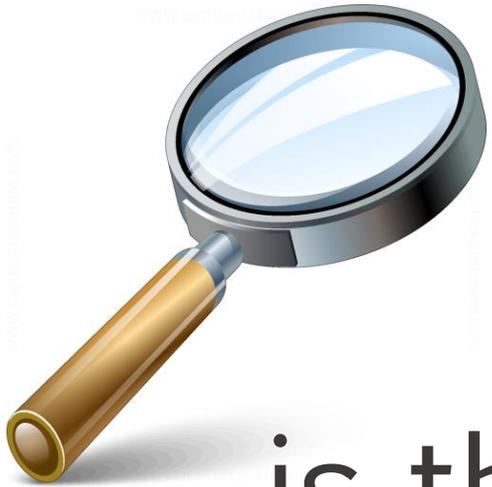


# Observation



Observation is the **1<sup>st</sup> stage** in studying the Bible. Observation is the active process of trying to *discover* **content** and **context**.

# Observation



Observing the content  
is the discipline of discovering  
the structure & specifics of  
what was said.

# Content

Discovering the overall content of a passage involves much more than simply reading the text and knowing the meaning of the words used.

# Content

This process requires *actively* investigating the **structure** of the writing itself. This includes studying the **words used**, the **#** of times particular words were used, as well as the **original language used** and the **writing style & tone**.

# Content

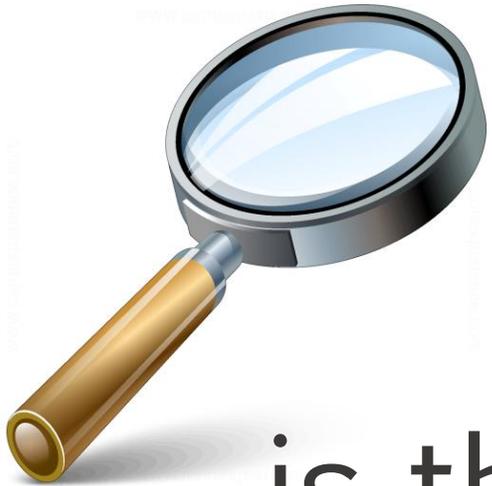
This process also requires *purposefully* gathering the **specifics** of the major **themes, topics & persons** mentioned within the passage. We are trying to find out as much as possible about the 'what' of the writing.

# Observation



Content discovery questions;  
What was said? How was it said?  
*What words were used to say it?*  
What words appear the most?  
*What themes were repeated?*

# Observation



Observing the context  
is the discipline of discovering  
the setting & surroundings  
of what was said.

# Context

Discovering the overall context of a passage is where we try to *immerse* ourselves in the world and *situation* in which the passage was originally written.

# Context

This process requires becoming familiar with the **setting** in which the text was written. We try to find out as much as possible about the **'who'**, **'when'** and **'where'** of the writing.

# Context

This process also requires becoming familiar with the **surroundings** in which the text was written. We try to find out as much as possible about what was happening in biblical and world history **before-during-after** this writing.

# Observation



Context discovery questions;

*Who said it? When was it said?*

Who was it said to? *Why was it said?*

What was happening before it was said?

*What happened after it was said?*

# Interpretation

Determining what  
the passage means.



# Interpretation



## Interpretation

is the **2<sup>nd</sup> stage** in studying the Bible. Interpretation is the active process of trying to *determine* **message** and **meaning**.

# Interpretation



Interpreting the message is the discipline of determining the desired intention of what was said.

# Message

Interpreting the overall message of a passage is the process of attempting to come as closely as possible to God's original, specific and direct intent of the passage.

# Interpretation



**Intention determining questions;**

What was his purpose in saying that?

*Why was it said this way?*

Why was this mentioned or not mentioned?

*Why was so much said about this?*

# Interpretation



Interpreting the meaning is the discipline of determining the direct implication of what was said.

# Meaning

Interpreting the overall meaning of a passage is the process of attempting to come as closely as possible to God's original, specific and direct implication of the passage.

# Interpretation



**Implication determining questions;**

What did he want to accomplish?

*What did he hope to change?*

What did he want them to understand?

# Application

Deciding what the  
passage asks of me.



# Application



## Application

is the **3<sup>rd</sup> stage** in studying the Bible. Application is the active process of trying to *decide* **purpose** and **practice**.

# Application



Applying the purpose  
is the discipline of deciding  
what the intended goal  
originally was and doing it.

# Purpose

Applying the overall purpose of a passage is the process of determining what God's original goal, will & design was via the writing and seeking to obey, follow & submit to that purpose in all possible areas.

# Application



Intended application questions;

*What did God want them to do?*

*What did he hope to change?*

*What would he want me to do?*

*What should I change?*

# Application



Applying the practice  
is the discipline of deciding  
what the inferred goal  
currently is and doing it.

# Practice

Applying the overall practice of a passage is the process of determining what God's current goal, will & design *is* via the writing and seeking to obey, follow & submit to that purpose in all things.

# Application



## Inferred application questions;

*How is my world different today?*

*How is my world the same today?*

*Does that affect the application of the message?*

*What would these principles look like in today's world?*

*What does God want me to do?*