

Week 3 Bible Study: Introduction to Bible Study

Today we are going to introduce the 3 Stages of Bible Study. We will spend 3 weeks on each stage.

Observation

_____ what the passage _____.

Interpretation

_____ what the passage _____.

Application

_____ what the passage _____ of me.

Observation

Observation is the 1st stage in studying the Bible. Observation is the active process of trying to *discover* _____ and _____.

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

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

This process requires _____ 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**.

This process also requires _____ 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.

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?*

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

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

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.

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.

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

Interpretation is the 2nd stage in studying the Bible. Interpretation is the active process of trying to *determine* _____ and _____.

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

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.

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?*

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

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.

Implication determining questions; *What did he want to accomplish? What did he hope to change? What did he want them to understand?*

Application

Application is the 3rd stage in studying the Bible. Application is the active process of trying to *decide* _____ and _____.

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

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

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?*

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

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

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?*