



# Bible Study Guide MACRO

**Step 1 / Define your passage of study** / typically use paragraph level divisions (pericopes).

**Step 2** →

**Step 3 / Consider Immediate Context** / what is being talked about around your passage

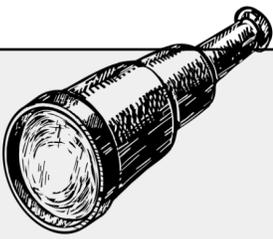
**Previous Passage /** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject of Passage:**  
**Compliment:**

**Your Study Passage /** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:**  
**Compliment:**

**Following Passage /** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:**  
**Compliment:**

**Terminology:**  
**Subject** / a subject is the main idea that a paragraph is talking about. One or two words to describe the main topic.  
**Compliment** / what does the paragraph say about what is being talked about.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Example**  
Col 1:15-20  
**Subject** / Jesus Christ...  
**Compliment** / ...is first and foremost of all things.





**Step 4 / Observation** / “What does the passage say?” / Be the detective! / Try to write down as many things that you can about what you notice about your passage / here are some tips...



**Ask Questions of the Passage:**

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- How Much?
- Why?
- How?

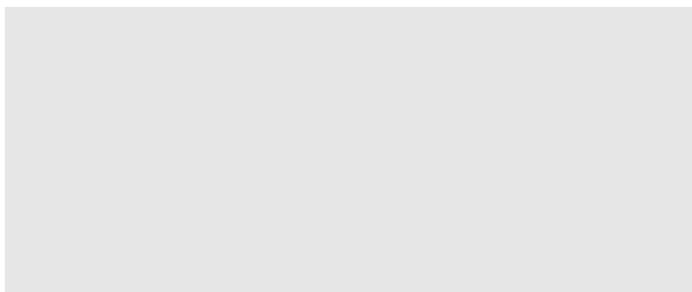
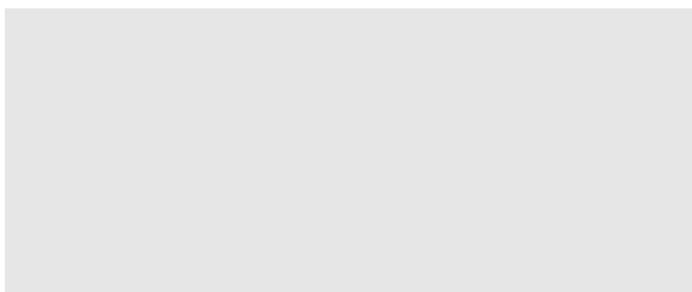
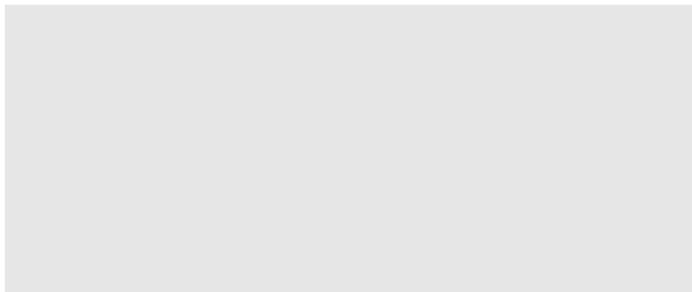
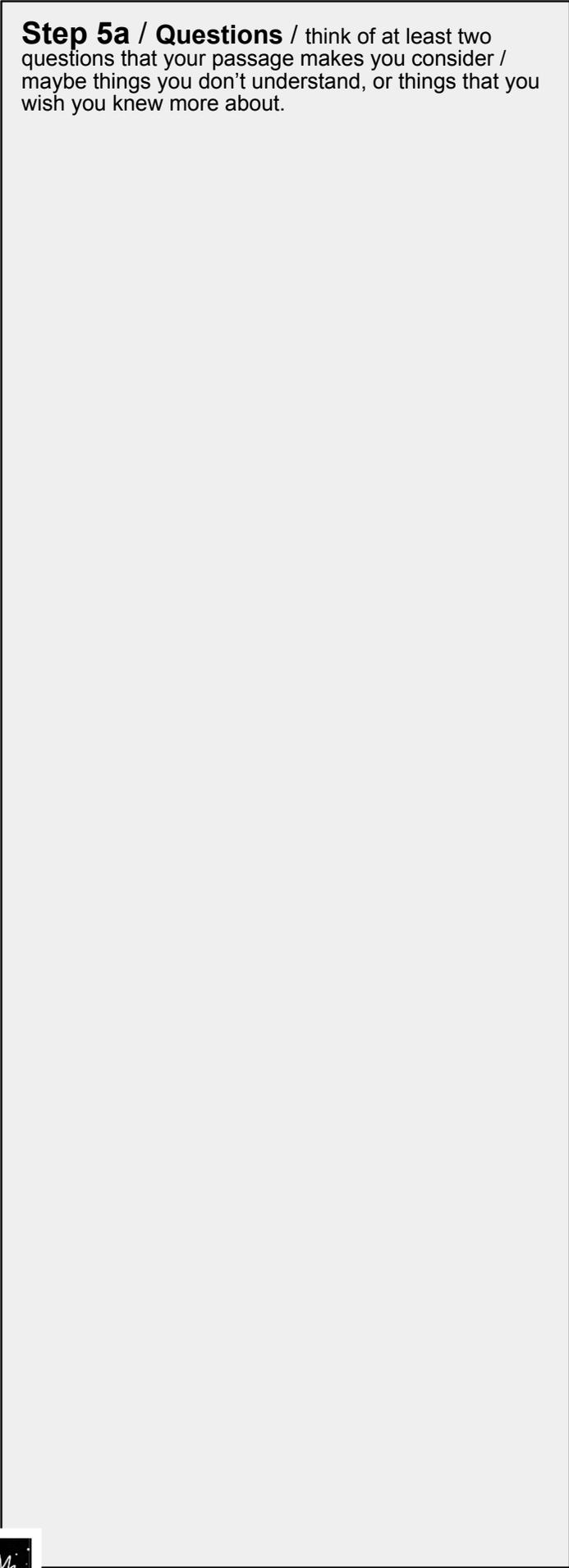
**Consider...**

- Significant conjunctions
- Comparisons and contrasts
- Repeating words or ideas (keys)
- Anything out of the ordinary?
- Questions you have when you read the passage

**Words you want to define or research?**

**Step 5a / Questions** / think of at least two questions that your passage makes you consider / maybe things you don't understand, or things that you wish you knew more about.

**Step 5b / Cross References** / use concordances or other Bible study tools to determine similar passages that might help answer questions.



**Step 6 / SUBJECT** / determine the subject of your passage / put some time into this!

BRAINSTORM AREA >>>>

**Step 7 / COMPLIMENT** / determine what your passage says about your "subject" / try to limit this to 4-8 words or so...

BRAINSTORM AREA >>>

**Subject:**

**Compliment:** 4-8 words or so...

NOTE: Finding your subject of the paragraph (or passage) and what it says about the passage keeps you honest and in context.

This step is so crucial as it keeps you from bringing outside biases into your study work, either from your opinions or things you've heard about the passage before. These things can sway your rational thinking and take you off course.

**Sub Points?** / Does this passage have any sub-points that are easy to spot?



## Step 8 / Interpretation / what does it mean?

### A few basic rules of interpretation...

(1) **Continuity of the message** / greater context of Bible / scripture best interprets scripture.

(2) **Context of the material.** What is the immediate context of the verse/passage?

(3) **Customary meaning.** What is the literal meaning of what is being said, don't spiritualize or modernize scripture. If it's symbolic, it will be obvious and state such.

Richards, Lawrence O., and Gary J. Bredfeldt. *Creative Bible Teaching*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2020.

### Another way of expressing this is...

(1) Identify the kind of literature your text is in for insight into its meaning / historical, poetical, correspondence, etc.

(2) Consider the context...

(3) Read the text for the plain and obvious meaning.

(4) Try to discern the writers intentions when he wrote the text.

(5) Look carefully at the language of the text for what it reveals about its meaning.

(6) Notice the theological themes in the text.

(7) Always take a God-centered perspective in interpreting your text.

McDill, Wayne. *12 Essential Skills for Great Preaching: Second Edition, Revised and Expanded*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2006.





**Step 9 / Application** / what do I personally do about it?  
How does this passage affect my thinking or my lifestyle?

All scripture is breathed out by God,  
and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**,  
for **correction** and for **training** in  
righteousness. 2 Tim 3:16

+ Positive Things

— Corrective Things

Realm of Truth / Belief

**Teaching** / things  
to believe, things  
that are true

**Reproof** / things  
that are not true, to  
reject

Realm of Action / Lifestyle

**Training** / things  
that I need to accept  
and do in terms of  
actions and lifestyle.

**Correction** /  
things that I need to  
reject in terms of  
actions and  
lifestyle.



**Step 10 / Prayerful Application** / take some time to consider how **faith** in God and **humility** might make applying this passage more possible. What aspects of “trusting God” and being “teachable” might make application more possible?

**Faith / Believing God More...**

**Humility / Trusting Self less...**

**Step 11 / Quotes or Illustrations** / find some quotes by people from the past or other leaders that help make sense of what you are learning. This is extra, but helpful.

