



study the Bible

Combine with / faith / humility / teachability
zeal / examination / questions / prayer

~ Observation ~

- **Be a Detective!** *Sherlock, Batman*

1 Determine your passage /

2 Write it out / listen to it / let it soak in

3 Determine Immediate Context

Do a **Subject/Complement** for passages before and after this passage. (See step 6 and 7)

4 Observation

Ask Questions / who? / what? / where?
when? / how much? / why? / how?

Consider Also...

- **Conjunctions** / *but, therefore, if*
- **Comparisons** and **contrasts**
- Repeated **words** or **phrases** or **ideas**
- **Commands** to pay attention to
- Anything **out of the ordinary?**
- **Words** (Greek) you want to **define** or **research**

5a Questions

- What doesn't make sense?
- What do you want to clarify?
- What related ideas do you need to consider?

5b Cross References

- Other passages that are similar to the one you are looking at / The Bible best interprets the Bible
- Found in your study Bible notes
- Found in Treasury of Scripture Knowledge
- **Thompson Chain** or **Logos Bible Software**

6 7 Subject and Complement

To help determine **the context** for each paragraph presented, do the following. Summarize each paragraph by finding its **subject** and **complement**.

- **SUBJECT** / what is the paragraph about?
One or two words / be concise
- **COMPLEMENT** / what does the paragraph say about the subject? 5-7 words / brief

EXAMPLE / Say you are studying James 1:16-18

Subject / *Every Good Gift...*

Complement / *...comes from the Father of Light*

Note: use this technique to determine the context of the passages around your paragraph, this will help you determine the **flow of thought!**

You can now go back to **step 3** and do that activity!

Note: This step is partially observation and partially interpretation. You might come back to this and rework it after thinking it through some more.

8 ~ Interpretation ~

- **What does it mean?**
 - **Discernment** / the ability to tell things apart
 - **Insight** / the ability to put things together
- **Basic Interpretive Rules**
(Creative Bible Teaching, Lawrence, Moody Press)
 - **Continuity of the message** / the greater context of the Bible / scripture best interprets scripture
 - **Context of the material** / immediate context
 - **Customary meaning** / literal meaning unless obviously symbolic
- **To Put In Another Way**
(12 Essential Rules for Great Preaching / McDill, Wayne, Lexham)
 - **Identify the kind of literature** / poetic, narrative, etc.
 - **Consider the context of the passage**
 - Read the text for the **plain** and **obvious** meaning
 - Try to **discern the writer's intentions** when he wrote it / what he wanted his audience to understand.
 - Look carefully at the **language** / word meanings
 - Notice the various **themes** in the text
 - Always take a **God-centered** perspective

~ Application ~

Without thoughtful, humble, personal application of truth to our everyday life and thought processes Bible Study is almost useless; consider these...

James 1:22-25 / John 13:17 / Luke 11:28

Without this step you can become a modern Pharisee, who typically gives themselves a moral pass and criticizes everyone else for not measuring up (usually to their own standards, not God's).

Note: These types of people are enemies of Jesus

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

God's Word is Profitable / useful, beneficial, advantageous / there are benefits to reading, studying and applying God's Word. Not just academically.

Areas of your life to consider...

<p>Teaching Things to believe are true</p>	<p>Reproof Things to not believe</p>
<p>Training Actions to adopt, lifestyles</p>	<p>Correction Actions to reject, lifestyles</p>

Teaching / there are things that we need to know about God and ourselves that we need to adopt. Understanding truth leads to good good actions.

Reproof / there are things that we believe that need to be declared wrong and we we need to repent from. Cleaning out our head to make room for good things. This is tough to admit when we are wrong about something. We are all wrong about things. We will never be 100% until we see Jesus face to face.

Correction / there are actions and lifestyle choices that we all have that need to be altered. From big things to small things. Perhaps we complain all the time. Perhaps we think too often about things we shouldn't think about. Admitting to yourself that they are wrong is half the battle.

Training / on the positive side there are things God wants to build in our lives that are not present yet. As we learn about good things to do, let's put them into practice.

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.

Pray for the **FAITH** to put the passage into practice. Ask God to help you with things like practicality or fear that might get in the way of obeying God. Obey God, not men.

Pray for **HUMILITY!** It takes humility to submit to God. It takes humility to do what God wants and perhaps look foolish to people around you.

• Quotes or Illustrations

Consider things from your own life that make sense out of things that you have learned. Think of quotes you have read in the past, or things you have heard other leaders have said that relate to this topic. This is extra, but can be helpful.

Note: this isn't THE way to study the scriptures, this is a way. Many of the principles are solid and shouldn't be skipped, but you will develop your own style of Bible study – and that is ok.

Adopt what is helpful. Seek God and he will reveal himself more and more to you.

*“The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were **more noble** (open minded) than those in Thessalonica; they **received the word** with **all eagerness**, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed...” Acts 17:10–12*

*Be open-minded / receive the Word
be eager to learn / be discerning*



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