

Summary - How to Study the Bible

1. Observation

What does the passage say?

Pray! Ask Holy Spirit to teach you from His word

Look for Things that strike you as interesting or important

Key words - including repetition

Markers - therefore, then, but, etc

Comparison or contrast

Verbs - tense, command, etc.

Conditional statements (if ...)

Relative time of action

Figures of speech

Perspective of original audience

Questions you have Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

Context is Critical

2. Correlation

How does it relate to other passages?

(Further investigate most important **Observations**)

Think of cross-references you know

Use your Bible's margin cross-references

Select key words look them up in your study Bible's mini-concordance

use full concordance

Check cross-references suggested by a commentary

3. Interpretation

What does it mean in general?

Review your **Observations** and **Correlations**

Develop general principles from the passage

Validate your interpretation

Supported in near context

Consistent with rest of Scripture

Restate if necessary

4. Application

What will I do about it?

Review your **Observations**, **Correlations** and **Interpretation**

Think of examples of application

positive or negative

Biblical or outside the Bible

Make your personal applications specific and actionable if possible

Pray! This is spiritual warfare!

5. Related Thoughts

All other ideas

Commentary, illustrations, word studies

Study regularly in manageable amounts of time - aim for 5 days a week, 15 minutes a day

Use your #1 study tool - your pen or pencil!

