

How to Study a Passage

A simple, structured approach to move from observation to understanding to application.

Step 1 — Read Carefully

- Read the passage slowly, more than once
- Note repeated words, key ideas, and structure
- Avoid jumping to conclusions

Step 2 — Observe the Text

- Who is speaking? Who is being addressed?
- What is happening in the passage?
- What stands out or seems important?

Step 3 — Understand the Context

- What comes before and after?
- Who is the author and audience?
- How does this fit within the book?

Step 4 — Interpret the Meaning

- What is the main idea?
- What is the author communicating?
- Use cross references to clarify meaning

Step 5 — Build the Theology

- What does this teach about God?
- How does this align with the rest of Scripture?

Step 6 — Apply with Precision

- What must be believed?
- What must be changed?
- What must be done?