

How to Study Scripture

God's Word is powerful and life-changing. (Hebrews 4:12)



OBSERVATION

- **Select a text with one complete thought.**
- **Determine the context.**
 - Investigate the scripture before and after the selected text.
 - Is the text history, biography, poetry, proverb, prophecy, a letter, or teaching?
 - Consult a Bible Atlas, Bible Dictionary, or Study Bible for additional help.
- **Make Observations**
 - List the basic facts in the text.
 - Ask Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How.
 - Identify keywords and concepts.



INTERPRETATION

- **Draw Conclusions**
 - Determine the author's intended meaning. There is only one correct interpretation.
 - Summarize the text in one sentence starting with the word "Why" or "How."
- **Compare Your Conclusion**
 - Using a trusted commentary, study Bible, or sermon; compare your findings to the conclusions of others.



APPLICATION

- **Make Application**
 - Determine the timeless truths.
 - List ways to make personal application.
 - Pray for obedience.

