

## How to Get the Most Out of Bible Study

(Dr. Carl Laney, 2019)

### What is the Bible?

- What do we know about the Bible?
  - John 17:17 “Your Word is truth”
  - 2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed . . . .”
  - 2 Peter 1:20-21 “Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
  - Hebrews 4:12 “The Word of God is living and active . . . .”

### Reading vs. Studying the Bible

You must follow the recipe to get this tasty dessert!

So you must follow a careful procedure to discover God’s truth from His Word.

### Hermeneutics:

...the science and skill of interpreting Scripture.

## Exegesis vs Eisegesis

Eisegesis = Reading into Scripture

Exegesis = Taking out of Scripture

## Dependent on the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the *Spirit who is from God*, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. 1 Cor. 2:12

## Three key to studying the Bible

- Observation – What do I see?
- Interpretation –What is the meaning?
- Application --What is the relevance?

### Illustrated:

I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense,<sup>31</sup> and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.<sup>32</sup> When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, *and* received instruction.<sup>33</sup> “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,”<sup>34</sup> then your poverty will come *as* a robber and your want like an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30-36

I saw ...

I reflected ...

I received instruction.

### Observation:

*What does the text say?*

Inductive: Asking questions as to the meaning.

Deductive: Looking for proofs of an interpretation or doctrine.

### Observation:

*What does the text say?*

Background Questions

1. Historical setting?
2. Persons involved?
3. Unfamiliar names & places

Observation:

*What does the text say?*

Composition Questions

1. Literary form?
2. Figures of speech?
3. Grammar and syntax

Observation:

*What does the text say?*

Content questions

1. The six interrogatives ??????
2. What words don't I understand?

Observation:

*What does the text say?*

Content questions

1. The six interrogatives ??????
2. What words don't I understand?

Interpretation:

*What does it mean?*

**Bridging the Gap:**

Language, Culture, Geography

*from 1<sup>st</sup> Century World to 21<sup>st</sup> Century World*

## Discovering Meaning

Some people say:

“The meaning of a text is not fixed in advance, but is something that emerges as you read, reflect and discuss.”

The world of the writer

The world of the text

The world of the reader

*Your thoughts?*

Better:

Discover the meaning *intended* . .

What was the original author thinking and intending to communicate?

## Discovering Meaning

### **The Doctrine of Inspiration**

“God so directed the human authors of Scripture that using their own individual personalities, His complete revelation for humanity was recorded without error in the words of the original manuscripts

The aim of our interpretation is to discover the one true meaning of the text.

**Interpretation:**  
*What does it mean?*

Literal Interpretation:  
The literal, customary, normal  
meaning  
How about figures of speech?

**Interpretation:**  
*What does it mean?*

The cultural situation  
The spatial background  
The temporal background  
The social background

**Interpretation**  
*What does it say?*

What is the immediate context?  
What is the parallel context?  
How does my text advance the flow of  
thought?  
How would the message be diminished if my  
text were absent?

### **The Biblical Message**

- How does the little story advance the BIG story of the Bible?
- How do the prophets, priests and kings anticipate Jesus?
- How does the text contribute to the great themes of Scripture?

## Application

### *How does it apply to me?*

The example of Ezra:

For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice *it*, and to teach

*His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Ezra 7:10

## Application

### *How does it apply to me?*

Evaluation:

Who is the text addressed to?

Does the NT text *nullify* the old?

Does the NT text *modify* the old?

Does the NT text *verify* the old?

## Application

### *How does it apply to me?*

Is the passage addressed to a specific New Testament situation or specific individuals?

Is the passage addressed to a historical situation *and* to others as well?

## Application:

### *How does it apply to me?*

Application to a contemporary situation:

1. Develop a principle from the passage.
2. Observe a need in an area of your life.
3. Develop a plan to do something in application of the passage.
4. Give proof of the application in some tangible way.

**Record:**

*Preserve what you have learned.*

What you don't record will eventually be forgotten.

**Review:**

*Bible Study is an on-going process.*

Repetition with variety is the key to learning.

1 Peter 1:12-13

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

**Bible Study Tools:**

*Stand on the shoulders of others.*

Bible Dictionary

Bible Encyclopedia

Bible Concordance

Bible Word Book

Bible Atlas

Bible Geography

Bible History

Bible Commentaries

**Commentaries allow you to consult  
with biblical scholars!**

J. D. Pentecost

John Calvin

N.T. Wright

Don Carson

J. C. Laney



Teaching:

*Teach what you have learned.*

“For Ezra had set his heart to study the Torah of Yahweh and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10).

Teaching:

*Teach what you have learned.*

1. Study the text.
2. Apply the text.
3. Teach the text

Three Principles; Three Prayers

Observation: *Lord, help me see it.*

Interpretation: *Lord, help me understand it*

Application: *Lord, help me to live it.*

Keep these guidelines in mind ...

The Word of God is alive and active!

Hebrews 4:12

... as *you* study the Bible!