

How to Study the Bible Using the 3 Question Approach

1. *What is this passage about? (Content- be factual)*

- Read the assigned verses and in your own words, write down the content of the passage.
- What is happening?
- Who is involved?
- Where does it take place?
- When does it take place?
- Summarize the content in a few short sentences.
- Who is speaking? Who is being spoken to? What's the tone?
- Is there any historical or cultural background I need to know? Is there anything from the context that might affect my understanding of the passage?
- What do certain words mean? (Check them out on blueletterbible.org)
- (This is OBSERVATION)

2. *What do I learn from this passage (Lesson)*

Ask yourself questions like:

- What did this mean to the original audience it was written to?
- Is there a warning, a command, or a promise?
- Is there an example to follow – or not to follow?
- What is the main truth of this passage?
- Is there a spiritual lesson or a principle that is a “universal” and timeless truth?
- Why is this passage in scripture? Why did God put this passage in the Bible?
- What does this passage reveal about the character of God?
- Are there specific things for which to pray?
- Is there a new thought? Encouragement? Or Question?
- This is INTERPRETATION

3. *How do I apply this to my life?*

- What does this change in/for me?
- What does this mean for my life?
- How does this connect with my life in today's world? How can I apply this to my life right now? Tomorrow?
- A great idea is to put what you learned in question two into the form of a question you could ask yourself or someone around you. Listen for God to communicate to you through His Word. Take your time, don't rush.

Take the time to prayerfully meditate and discover what God is saying to you.

Another way to think about these questions as you study:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

What does it mean for me?