

Steps of Discovery Worksheet



A. Observation (What does the passage say?)

Step 1. Begin with prayer.

Step 2. Identify the context. (Context is surrounding verses/chapter/book) _____

Step 3. Look for the obvious. (Facts, details, or ideas) Who is the author, audience, or main characters? _____

What are the main events? What is the topic of instruction? _____

Where did this event take place? _____

Why was this written? Why did he say that? _____

How is this to be done or how did that happen? _____

Look for things that are: emphasized, repeated, related, or alike. _____

B. Rules of Interpretation (What does the passage mean? Identify the timeless truths revealed in the passage.)

Rule 1. Remember the context rules.

- Every verse must be considered in light of the surrounding verses/chapters/book and entire Bible.

Rule 2. Identify key words (words used multiple times), topic, or theme. _____

Rule 3. Interpret Scripture with Scripture.

Look up other passages that may shed light on the current passage. Seek the full teaching of God's Word for every topic.

- That which is said multiple times interprets that which is said only once.

4. Follow the literal sense. (Go with the obvious meaning rather than a "hidden" message.)

5. Look for the author's intended meaning.

What was the author's purpose and intent? _____

Is there a doctrine to be understood? _____

Is there a reproof for my life? (sin or mistake) _____

Is there a correction for something I have been doing? _____

Is there a command or instruction to obey? _____

Is there a warning to heed? _____

Is there a promise to claim? _____

Is there an example to follow or avoid? _____

6. What is the timeless truth? _____

After you have completed your own interpretation you should check your conclusions using reliable study aids.

C. Application (Apply the Passage to Your life? What do you think God is saying to you?)

How does your life measure up to this truth? _____

What are some specific ways I (we) have failed to live up to this truth? _____

What specific action will I take to bring my life in line with this truth? (Spiritual maturity is not measured by how much of God's truth we know, but by how much of God's truth we live.) _____