

Unlocking the Bible: Tools for the Task

Interpretation Practice:

Find a passage of scripture you would like to study and then ask the following questions:

1. What is the author's intended meaning in the passage?
2. What is the author's intended message?
3. What is the universal truth I can draw out ?
4. How can I apply it to my world and my life?

Interpretation Steps:

Find another passage of Scripture and follow the steps:

1. Observe and find out what the text says by answering the following questions:
 - Who wrote the text and who is it written to?
 - What is the context? What is the main idea?
 - When was it written?
 - Where was the author? Where was the audience?
 - How do we apply, understand and interact with the text?
2. Interpret by asking these questions:
 - What did the text mean to its original readers?
 - Why does the text say what it does?
3. Apply by asking these questions:
 - What does the text mean for us today?
 - What are the universal timeless principles relevant today?

Activate the Toolkit:

Using one of the scriptures you have chosen, use some of the study tools available to help deepen your understanding:

Bible Translations
Bible Concordance
Study Bible
Bible Dictionary
Bible Commentaries
Cross Reference

Summarize

Write a short summary of each text as you have interpreted it after using these tools.