

COMA Bible Study Helps

Context

- What kind of writing is this? (OT or NT, poetry, narrative, prophecy, letter, or?)?
- Who is the author? Who were the original recipients? What were their situations?
- What prompted the writing of the passage you're studying?
- Where does this passage fit in the biblical story? How does it connect to Jesus?
- What comes before and after this passage? How does it connect? Are there any common themes or logical connections to the surrounding verses?

Observation

- Who is involved in and acting in this passage (notice especially what God is doing)?
- What kinds of words or language are used (commands, questions, promises, etc.)?
- What is the tone or emotion of the passage (encouraging, warning, etc.)?
- Are there comparisons, contrasts, metaphors, or other figures of speech.?
- Where are there connecting and transition words ("therefore", "for", "in order that", etc.)?
- What key words or ideas seem to be repeated or emphasized?
- Is there a problem and solution or conflict and resolution in the passage?
- What questions do you have about this passage?

Meaning

- What are the definitions of the unfamiliar words you noticed? What do the words that are repeated or emphasized mean?
- How do the connecting words help you understand what this passage is saying?
- Are there comments from the narrator that give clues to the meaning of the text?
- How does the previous context (what's come so far in the book) help you understand what this section is about?
- What other passages in Scripture might help us understand this passage?
- How does this passage relate to the message and story of the gospel?
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What are the answers to the questions you asked in the observation step?
- How would you sum up the main point of the passage in your own words?

Application

- *Thinking/Believing*: How should this passage shape what I believe about God, myself, the world, my circumstances, or God's work in the world?
- *Affections/Attitudes*: How should this passage change what I love and desire? How should it shape my attitude towards God, other people, or my circumstances?
- *Words/Actions*: How do my words and actions need to change because of the truths in this passage? What concrete steps should I take in response to this text?
- *Prayer*: How will I respond to this passage in prayer (worship, repentance, thanksgiving, requests, etc.)?