

- o Example: King Saul is the king Israel wanted. They were rejecting God when they requested a king. King Saul fails in every way as a king. Jesus is the greater Saul. He is the King who is appointed by God and never fails His people. (Jesus riding on a donkey before His death is a picture His Kingship. The last King of Israel is greater than the first.)
- o Do any New Testament writers refer to or quote this text?
- New Testament: How might this text build on the themes of the Old Testament? Have other biblical authors addressed this topic?
- What is the Big-idea of the text? Does God promise future redemption? Does this text make sense when it fits into the storyline of the Bible?

Application: What should I do now? Why

does it matter?

- Application is typically personal.. It is important to respond to God at this time.
- What is God prompting you to DO in response to what you have learned?
- Are there any areas of repentance or confession that have been exposed?
- How can you change one thing in your life today, this week?
- What truths about God need to be remembered for the future?
- What truths do I need to believe? What lies have been exposed? Consider beliefs, behaviors, attitudes, actions, patterns of unbelief, areas of lack of peace or conflict, relationships,
- What will I do next?

Getting the Message Right: Quick Start Guide

Start here: Remember

- The Big Story of Scripture- Consider the Christ-centered contextual overview of Scripture. The redemptive thrust of the Old and New Testaments is that all of the Bible tells the redeeming story of the Cross. Every story points to Christ.
- The Story of Scripture:
 - Creation
 - Corruption
 - Covenant Community
 - Christ
 - Consummation
- Approaching Scripture:
 - Authorial intent- remain faithful to what the original authors were trying to communicate to the original audience.
 - To know God - It is essential to find what God intended for us to know. The Bible is a book about God so the goal of Scripture is to first and foremost to know God and to know His purpose.
 - The Scripture is alive: Read it supernaturally and expectantly
 - Consider the genre: Narrative; Law; Poetry; Prophecy; Gospels; Epistles; Apocalyptic
 - The heart's posture:
 - o Teachable
 - o Humble
 - o Ready to change
 - o Set aside previous opinions or perceptions

Observation: What does it say?

- Read the entire text (several times if possible)
- Re-read the section you're studying
- Determine the genre
- Determine the author
- Determine the historical context- to whom is it written? Why was it written? What is happening in the world? etc.
- Determine the literary context- what happened in the verses or chapter(s) before this text?; What happens in the verses or chapter(s) after this text?
- Look for repeated words, phrases, ideas (details)
- Note themes: (worship, praise, service, etc)
- Mark words that need further defining
- Look for God: What is true about God's character or activity? Is the text teaching about God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit—or all three?

Other questions to ask in Observation:

- What would make the difference between teaching this truth to others? Am I tempted to focus on behavior without God's power? (moralism)
- Does the death of Christ and His resurrection (the Christian Gospel) make any difference on how I read or understand this text?
- Are there inferences to Creation?
- Are there inferences to the fall (brokenness because of sin)?
- Are there inferences to God's covenant promises to His people?
- Are there inferences to God's coming or future redemption?
- Are there inferences to consummation? (God will make all things new)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

- Consider what you may already know about a text. Try to hear the passage and message with an alert heart and eyes. Be ready to see new things and to change your mind about old things.
- MEAT- Four interpretive steps -- this may be a repeat/overlap of Observation. Be ready to dig deeper into what has already been mentioned.
- M- Mine (historical background) - if available/known.
 - Who is the author?
 - Who is the initial audience?
 - What is the author's relationship with his audience?
 - What is the location of the author and his audience?
 - What events surround the writing?
- E- Examine
 - Re-read the text being studied.
 - Look up meanings of important or repeated words. Use an English Dictionary as well as a Biblical concordance for the meanings of words in the original language or context.
 - Compare Bible translations to enhance understanding
 - Use reference maps, footnotes, cross references, etc.
- A- Analyze
 - Look at the Grammar. Look for clauses that stand alone. Words that modify and describe others.
 - Identify word tenses- In Greek there are 6: present, perfect, imperfect, future, aorist, pluperfect. (one resource to help with this: www.blueletterbible.org)
 - Look for the imperative (command or direction) and then look for the indicative (the source of this; Who will help; how the command will be fulfilled)
 - Commentaries- consult scholar's perspectives. Do this last.
- T- Tie- How does this text relate to the Big Story?
 - Old Testament- Does this text point to Jesus? Is the finished work of Jesus the fulfillment of the story?