

Review:

Step 1: Grasping the Text in Their Town – What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

Studying sentences:

- Repetition of Words – Many times this gives clues to the main point.
- Contrasts – Differences. Look for items, ideas, or individuals that are contrasted with each other.
- Comparisons – Similarities. Look for items, ideas, or individuals that are compared.
- Lists – More than two things is a list. Is there any order to the list?
- Cause and Effect – Very important in the Bible, always be looking for it. Key Words: therefore, for, that, in order that, so that, then, since, because, etc.
- Figures of Speech – Images in which words are used in a sense other than the normal, literal sense.
- Conjunctions – These are words like: and, for, but, therefore, since, because, etc.
- Verbs – The action of the sentence.
- Pronouns – Determine who or what the pronoun is referring to.

Studying Paragraphs:

1. General and Specific – Sometimes the author will summarize a main, general point and then move to specifics, or vice versa. Find the general statements that are followed by specific examples or applications of the general. What is the general statement and what are the specifics?

Galatians 5:16-23 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Romans 12:1-----> 12:11-21

2. Questions and Answers – Rhetorical Questions, or questions asked within a narrative passage. Identify the question and the answer. Identify who is asking and who is providing the answer. If the question is rhetorical, what is the point being made?

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Mark 2:1-3:6 Five questions.

Pharisees question 2:7 – Jesus answers 2:10-11

Pharisees question 2:16 – Jesus answers 2:17

Pharisees question 2:18 – Jesus answers 2:19

Pharisees question 2:24 – Jesus answers 2:25, 28

Jesus questions 3:4 – Pharisees don't answer 3:6.

Matthew 5:43-47; 2 Corinthians 12:17-18; Galatians 3:1-6

- 3. Dialogue** – Easy to ignore and skip. Don't! What is the nature of this dialogue? Who are the participants? Who is speaking to whom? What is the setting? Are other people around? Are they listening? Are they participating in the dialogue? Is it an argument? Discussion? Lecture? What is the point of the dialogue?

Exodus 33:12- 34:11 Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" ¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." ^{34:1} The Lord said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." ⁴ So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵ The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

- 4. Purpose/Result Statements** – Phrases or sentences that describe the reason, result, or consequence of some action. Similar to cause and effect. Important clues: That, in order that, so that, for this reason, therefore, etc. What is the purpose(s) and the result(s)?

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Psalms 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

- 5. Means** (by which something is accomplished)— Does a sentence indicate that something was done by means of someone or something (answers how)? This communicates the way that a specific thing happens or is accomplished. Who or what accomplishes something? How is the purpose accomplished? Who is responsible for the means?

Romans 8:13-17 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- 6. Prepositions** – A word that helps express the relationship between two or more words. Words like through, by, in, of, on, for, before, according to. Always make sure you understand what a preposition is conveying.

Colossians 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- 7. Conditional Clauses** – Clauses that present the conditions whereby some action, consequence, reality, or result will happen. Sometimes introduced by “if” followed by “then.” Identify the condition and the result. Many times, the “then” is left out.

1 John 4:11-12 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

- 8. The Action/Roles of People and the Actions/Roles of God** – Identify these. What does God do in this passage? Does it clarify which Person of the Trinity does what? Note this. What do people do in this passage? What are people encouraged to do or not to do?

Matthew 6:1-9 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9. Emotional Terms – The Bible is not a book of abstract, technical information. It is a book about relationships, primarily between God and His people. Words that convey feeling and emotion. Are there words that carry emotional energy or kinship words?

Galatians 4:12-16 Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. ¹³ You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

10. Tone – What is the overall emotional tone of this passage? This is closely tied with emotional terms, just more focused on the big picture.

Lamentations 3:1-9 I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; ² he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; ³ surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. ⁴ He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; ⁵ he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; ⁶ he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. ⁷ He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; ⁸ though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; ⁹ he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked.

Matthew 23:33-25 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴ Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵ so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

Remember that we are still just focusing on asking what the text says. It's the first step in interpreting and applying.