

# How to Study the Bible - Discourse

## Review

What kind of Bible study method are we learning today? \_\_\_\_\_

What truth about the Bible undergirds this method?

The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. (John 17:17)

What is the name of the hermeneutic Evangelical Christians use? \_\_\_\_\_

What truth about the Bible is the basis for this hermeneutic?

The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

## Discourse

**Genres** are categories of literature with distinctive features that require particular reading strategies. Biblical genres include Old Testament History, Prophetic Literature, Wisdom Literature, Apocalyptic Literature, Gospels and Acts, and Epistles.

**Text type** refers only to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in a particular \_\_\_\_\_.

- Discourse (\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_)
- Narrative
- Poetry

We analyze the structure of **discourse** by looking at:

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Last Week's Video, handouts:



## Resources

Charles Simeon Trust. *Worksheet Preparation Guide*. 2025.

Arthur, Kay, David Arthur, and Pete De Lacy. *How to Study Your Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2010.

Traina, Robert A. *Methodical Bible Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1952.

### Matthew 7:1-6 (ESV)

“Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Words
2. Structure (patterns and connections)

3. *Emphasis* \_\_\_\_\_

**I - Interpret** What does it mean?

- Context  
    Passage Before: \_\_\_\_\_ After: \_\_\_\_\_  
    History/Culture \_\_\_\_\_
- Conversation
- *Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel?

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

**A - Apply** Given this truth, what needs to change?

- My life
- Family life
- Church life
- Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

- When will I make these changes?
- Who else needs to hear this?

### **Study at Home - Matthew 7:21-27**

This passage is the end of the famous discourse, The Sermon on the Mount, teachings by Jesus that describe the lifestyle of a follower of Jesus. Verses 24-29 contain a parable, which is a metaphorical story that teaches *one* main point. The goal when studying a parable is *not* to identify a meaning for each symbol, but to interpret what the single main point is. Start by identifying the imagery, then identify the referent, and then narrow down the point of similarity that teaches the lesson.

7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

#### **Questions to assist study**

N - Words/ Structure: What key verb connects these paragraphs?

I - Context: Where else does this key word occur in this chapter and how does that occurrence broaden the implications of what Jesus is teaching? How does the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount inform the meaning of the end?

R - How does a clear understanding of a gospel of grace by faith through Christ assist in interpreting this action-oriented teaching of Jesus?

## NIRADS - Discourse

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Words
  - a. Key words (key ideas or repetitions)
  - b. Transitional words
  - c. Grammar - Verbs, clauses
  - d. Tracing the logic, flow of ideas, or reasoning

2. Structure (patterns and connections) *List outline, with verse references.*

3. *Emphasis* \_\_\_\_\_

**I - Interpret** What does it mean?

Context

Passage Before:

After:

History/Culture

Conversation

*Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel?

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

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