

How to Study the Bible

The purpose of Bible study is to accurately understand the meaning of God's Word so that you can apply it correctly to your life.

Why do you need to study the Bible?

1. The Bible was written for people who lived in a different time.
2. The Bible was written over a long span of time.
3. The Bible contains different literary genres.

Understanding the 3 worlds of the text.

1. The world within the text.
2. The world behind the text.
3. The world in front of the text.

Helpful resources.

1. ESV Study Bible
2. www.bibleref.com
3. www.enduringword.com
4. www.biblehub.com (Hebrew and Greek word studies)
5. www.abarim-publications.com (Hebrew names)

Helpful questions to ask when studying the Bible.

Understand the world within the text.

1. What is the genre of the text?
2. What are the limits of the text?
3. Who is speaking and who is the audience?
4. How are the characters feeling?
5. Who do the characters represent?
6. What is the significance of names, places, festivals?
7. What is the message of the text?
8. How does the message fit in with the rest of the book?
- 9. What does this text teach me about God's nature and character?**
- 10. How is this text fulfilled in Jesus Christ?**

Understand the world behind the text.

11. Who was the author of the text?
12. Who was the intended audience?
13. What were the historical, social, political and cultural conditions at that time?
14. What circumstance, struggle or issue was the intended audience facing at that time?
- 15. What was the author's purpose for writing the text?**

Understanding the world in front of the text.

16. What similar situation do people experience today?
17. How does the text re-shape my worldview?
- 18. What is one way I can apply this text in my life?**