

Bible Study Methods | Practical Tools for Biblical Interpretation (Part 1)

- **English 101:** Remember all those things in English about participles, verbs, parallel structure, repeated words and stuff? Yeah, you're going to need to remember that for scripture. The reason why is because we believe that every word in scripture is put there where it's at on purpose. What that means is when you start dissecting it and analyzing it...you start peeling off the layers and then the bible ends up revealing its truths to you. Look out for verbs, opposites, and chiasms.
 - **Repetition of Words:** Look for words and phrases that repeat
 - **Contrasts:** Look for ideas, individuals, and/or items that are contrasted with each other
 - **Comparisons:** Look for ideas, individuals, and /or iteams that are compared with each other. Look also for similarities.
 - **Lists:** note where the text mentions more than two items.
 - **Cause and Effect:** There may be more than one effect from a single cause mentioned in the text.
 - **Figures of Speech:** Look for expressions that convey an image, using words in a sense other than the literal sense.
 - **Conjunctions:** Notice terms that join units, like "and," "but," "for." Note what they are connecting.
 - **Verbs:** Note whether a verb is past, present, or future; active or passive; also look for imperatives.
 - **Pronouns:** Identify the antecedent for each pronoun.
- **The Interpretive Journey:**
 - **Step 1:** Grasping the Text in Their Town
 - **Question:** What did the text mean to the biblical audience?
 - **Step 2: Measuring the Width of the River to Cross**
 - **Question:** What are the differences between the biblical audience to us?
 - **Step 3:** Crossing the Principlizing Bridge
 - **Question:** What is the theological principle in this text?
 - **Step 4:** Grasping the Text in Our Town
 - **Question:** how should individual Christians today apply the theological principle in their lives?

- **Biblical Hermeneutics:**
 - **Step 1:** Observation
 - **Question:** Where is the text positioned? What is the context?
 - **Step 2:** Analyzation
 - **Question:** What does the text say? Is there anything unique in the passage? Are there certain words that I may not be familiar with?
 - **Step 3:** Explanation
 - **Question:** How can I synthesize my thoughts? What is the main point of the passage? What are the sub points of the passage?
 - **Step 4:** Illustration
 - **Question:** How can I explain the text to my audience with modern examples? Are there other ways to communicate the main idea?
 - **Step 5:** Argumentation
 - **Question:** How can I defend the main idea? Does the text itself have any of its own arguments? How could I answer the skeptics?
 - **Step 6:** Application
 - **Question:** How can I apply this to my own life? What are some practical ways people can live out the main idea?