

Four Steps of **BIBLE STUDY**

Walk through these steps when you study a passage of Scripture.

1. **Learn Observation Skills (What do I see?)**

- **The first step is asking good questions. Here are some sample questions:**
 - **Who?** Who are the people in this passage? What is said about them? Why are they asking a specific question, making a statement, or behaving in that way? Who wrote this passage, and to whom?
 - **What?** What is happening in this passage? What events take place? In what order do they happen? What happens to the characters? What responses are there to these events? In what order do the responses happen? What are some key words or phrases in this passage?
 - **Where?** Where is this taking place? Where are the people in the story? Where are they coming from or going to?
 - **When?** When are these events taking place? What other events are going on about the same time? When was this written?
 - **Why?** Why is this story included in the Bible? Why did the people respond the way they did? Why are the people where they are? Why do the events unfold the way they do?
 - **How?** How does this passage relate to the other passages in the context? How does God reveal Himself in this passage?

2. **Learn Interpretation Skills (What does it mean?)**

- **Begin to uncover some of the answers, reasons, and meanings behind the observations you made in the first step. Here are some sample questions:**
 - What did Jesus mean when he said that?
 - How did the original readers/listeners understand this passage?
 - Why did the characters in the story respond in that way?
 - Why did the author use that specific word in this passage?

3. **Learn Correlation Skills (Where else is this taught?)**

- **Discover other passages that relate to the passage you are studying. Here are some sample questions:**
 - What do parallel or similar passages say about this?
 - How does this same author talk about this specific word or phrase in other passages?
 - How is this concept addressed in both the Old Testament and New Testament?
 - Does Jesus talk about this principle in His teaching?
 - What can you learn from comparing different writers' perspectives on this topic?

4. **Learn Application Skills (How does it apply to me?)**

- **Come up with a plan to put into practice the Biblical principles you've learned. Here are some sample questions:**
 - What would I have done in the situation described in this passage?
 - What part of this reading is most meaningful to me? Why?
 - Is there a specific caution, promise, or illustration I need to learn from this passage?
 - What is my plan for success in the area I'm lacking in?
 - Who will I talk to about the goals I developed as a result of what I read today?

