



# How To Study The Passage (Part 2)

HOW TO PREPARE AND TEACH A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION 2

# 10 Steps To Study A Passage

- Scan The Text
- Sort The Content
- Survey The Context
- **Scrutinize The Communication**
- **Spot The Colloquialisms (Figures of speech, parables)**
- **Scope What's Coming (Prophecy)**
- **Solve The Conflicts (Resolving conflicts with other passages, history, science)**
- **Specify With Certainty (Theological analysis)**
- **Supplement Through Cross-Referencing**
- **Submit To The Commands**

# IV. Scrutinize The Communication

- Look For Significant Words In The Passage
- Identify Repeated Words
- Identify Figures Of Speech
- Note Words That Are Unclear, Confusing Or Hard To Understand
- Determine How Is The Word Used
- Explore The Possible Meanings Of The Word?
- Study The Origin Of The Word (Etymology)?



## **V. Spot The Colloquialisms**

# Figures Of Speech

- Understand The Words As Literal Unless There Is Compelling Reason Not To
- The Figurative Expression Is Followed By An Explanatory Literal Statement
- Identify What The Figure Of Speech Refers To
- Understand The Figure Of Speech In The Way The Original Listeners Understood It, Not Our Modern Understanding
- Do Not Assume A Figure Always Means The Same Thing
- Place Reasonable And Logical Boundaries In Drawing Comparisons

# Parables

- Understand The Literary Context
- Understand The Historical/Cultural Context
- Identify The Single Emphasis Of The Parable
- Distinguish The Relevant Details And The Irrelevant Details
- Compare With Parallel And Contrasting Passages

# Understand The Literary Context

- Identify The Occasion For Telling The Story
- Identify The Explanation Of The Parable's Meaning When An Explanation Is Given
- Jesus Often Used Parables To Introduce New Truth
- Pay Attention To The Final Statement As An Explanation Of The Parable
- Note Figures Of Speech And Literary Devices

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# VI. Scope What's Coming

- Determine The Historical, Grammatical And Cultural Impact On The Prophecy
  - *What is the context of the prophecy?*
- Understand The Words In Its Normal Meaning
  - *What is the simplest understanding of the prophecy?*
- Factor In The Usage Of Figurative Language
  - *What is figurative and what is non-figurative?*
    - The language is figurative if the literal interpretation is absurd.
    - Context can also identify figurative language
    - A literal statement can have a figurative meaning
    - A type represents something to be fulfilled with an antitype.

# VI. Scope What's Coming

- Identify Injected Interpretations
  - *How is the prophecy interpreted in the passage?*
- Compare With Parallel Passages
  - *How is the prophecy understood or fulfilled in other passages?*
- Determine The Prophecies That Are Fulfilled And The Prophecies Awaiting Fulfillment
  - *What is already fulfilled and what is yet to be fulfilled?*
- Allow The Possibility Of Multiple Reference
  - *Are there more than two subjects in the prophecy?*
- Recognize The Principle Of Double Fulfillment
  - *Is there a possibility of a partial fulfillment and a later fulfillment?*

## VII. Solve The Conflicts

- Despite Critiques Of The Bible's Infallibility, The Bible Remains Eternally Authoritative
- Alleged Contradictions
- Historical Contradictions
- Scientific Accuracy

# Despite Critiques Of The Bible's Infallibility, The Bible Remains Eternally Authoritative

- God Cannot Lie Or Error
- The God Who Cannot Lie Or Error Wrote The Scriptures
- God Conveyed His Truth Through Various Human Instruments
- The Bible Is The Truth Of God
- The Bible Is Infallible And Cannot Be Nullified Or Found Faulty

# Alleged Contradictions

- Two Passages Can Be Different Without Being Contradictory
- Different Accounts Express A Variety Of Opinions And Perspectives
- Understanding The Original Greek And Hebrew Words Can Clear Up Passages Where Bad Translations Occur
- There Are Manuscript Variations Due To Copyist Errors

# Alleged Contradictions

- Figurative Language And Parables Must Be Understood As Literary Devices
- One Author Might Have Another Purpose From Another
- Two Events Might Appear Similar But Are Distinct
- Some Teachings Are Beyond The Realm Of Human Understanding (ie/ Trinity, Sovereignty Vs Free Will, Miracles)

# Historical Contradictions

- Historical Advancements Continually Demonstrate The Bible's Reliability
- Archaeological Discoveries Confirm The Bible's Reliability

# Scientific Accuracy

- The Bible Is Not Primarily A Science Book But Is Accurate In Matters Of Science
- The Bible Is Accurate In Matters Of Science



# VIII. Specify With Certainty

- The Goal Is Not For Knowledge Alone (1 Cor 8:1)
- The Goal Is To Understand God's Truth So We Would Grow And Be Perfected In God's Truth (2 Tim 3:16-17; Eph 4:13-14)
- We Will Not Have Full Understanding, But Will Do Our Best To Understand What We Can
- Form Your Understanding Of A Doctrine By Proper Exegesis Of Each Text

# IX. Supplement Through Cross-Referencing

- **Comparing Passages**
  - Locate And Compare Parallel Passages By The Same Author
  - Locate And Compare Parallel Passages By Different Authors
- **Comparing Concepts**
  - Locate And Compare Similar Concepts
  - Locate And Compare Contrasting Passages
- **Comparing Words**
  - Compare The Use Of A Word In English With Its Usage Throughout The Bible
  - Compare The Use Of A Word In The Original Language With Its Usage Throughout The Bible

# X. Submit To The Commands

- The Pattern Of Biblical Application - Mark 4:33-35
  - Read it (33)
  - Explain it (34)
  - Apply it (35)

# Assess To Whom The Passage Is Addressed

- Who Is Being Addressed In The Passage?
- Is There A Command To Be Universally Obeyed?
- Is The Passage Specific To A Person/People In History?
- Is There An Action Commanded Though The Specific Application Is Difficult To Employ?
- Is There A Principle To Follow Though The Cultural Application Is Different From Today?
- Does The Narrative Passage Illustrate A Principle To Obey?

# Seek The Practical Truth

(questions from Hendricks/Hendricks, *Living By The Book*)

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there an error to mark?
- Is there a challenge to face?

# Apply The Passage To Your Life

- Examine Your Life (1 Tim 4:16)
- Evaluate Your Life In Light Of The Scripture (2 Tim 3:17)
- Employ The Scriptural Principle To Specific Areas Of Your Life
- Experience The Change Through The Program Of The Word And The Power Of The Holy Spirit