

Personal Bible Study - 4 Steps

Observation: What does it say?

- ◆ Pray
- ◆ Ask: Who? To Whom? What? When? Where? Why?
- ◆ Identify the context, literary form and structure
- ◆ Look for key words and phrases and repeated words/phrases

Interpretation: What does it mean?

- ◆ Look for theological principles, literal interpretation
- ◆ Ask: is it prescriptive or descriptive?
- ◆ Cross reference to look at other scripture passages
- ◆ Consult resources (Original language tools, Bible Dictionaries, Bible Atlas, Commentaries, etc.)

Application: How does it apply to my life?

- ◆ Relate the truth to your life, family, marriage, work, time, church, society, etc.
- ◆ Meditate: think about the scripture, let it run through your mind
- ◆ Find a key verse or key verses to memorize

Implementation: What am I going to do?

- ◆ Pray: ask God to help you put the truth into practice
- ◆ Identify decisions you need to make because of it
- ◆ Identify specific actions to take in order to obey