

# Appendix



## Helps for Studying God's Word on Your Own

### Step One: Observation and Investigation

Read the entire text through a couple of times.

Are there main characters in the text? Who are they? How do they act? Is there any other back ground that helps you understand them?

Is there an event taking place? What is happening. Consider where, when and why?

Is there a cultural practice or religious practice mentioned that you need to know more about to understand the passage more clearly?

Identify any words that you don't understand. Look them up in a dictionary and write the definition or a synonym in the text.

What repeated words or phrases do you see? Mark them in the text.

Is there key word(s) in the text that a better understanding would contribute to your understanding of the passage? Dig into the meaning of those words. You may want to use a Bible Dictionary such as Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. A helpful Bible dictionary can also be found on line at Blue Letter Bible, available at [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) or Bible Gateway available at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

Identify any:

Contrasting terms: (things that are not alike) Look for words such as but that point out the contrast.

Comparison terms: (things that are similar) Look for words such as like or as that point out what is similar.

Cause and Effect statements: (things that must be present for the effect to occur) Look for statements that point out cause and effect relationships.

Are there any commands or instructions?

Are there any direct statements that tell you about who God is?

## **Step Two:** Interpretation

Read the entire text again a few more times. Read it in at least one other translation.

Look up the cross references that you find listed in the margin or at the bottom of the page in your study Bible. If you don't have a study Bible, [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) would be a helpful resource.

Note how the cross-referenced passages enhance your understanding.

Is there anything in the text that points to God's greater plan of redemption? If so, what is it?

Take your time. Considering all you discovered in your observation and investigation, and the interpretation questions, what are the themes and main points of this passage.

What additional things have you learned about who God is?

## **Step Three:** Application

Prayerfully consider how God would want to apply the truth of His Word to your life. The following questions may be of help.

How does what I've learned about God's character impact me in my current circumstances? How does it impact my relationship with Him? Spend some time praising God for who He is.

In what ways does this passage instruct me and teach me? Is there any command that I need to obey, or principle I need to follow?

Is there a promise I need to claim?

Is there something in my life that I need to confess and turn away from?

How does this passage equip me to live rightly and victoriously?

Is there any passage or verse that is particularly impactful to you, that you would like to spend more time meditating or memorizing?