

Kyrie Christian Fellowship

How to Study the Bible

Part One -
The Inductive Method

Observe - What is this passage saying? What is happening? Who are the people in the narrative? Who is the prophet speaking to? What is the gist of what they are saying?

Interpret - What does this passage mean? Why are they saying these things? What events led up to this text? What does it not mean based on the context?

Apply - How does it apply to my life? Why is this important? Do my thoughts about someone or something need to change because of what I've just learned? Do my actions toward someone need to change because of what I've just read? In what ways do I now understand more about who God is?

Act - Go and do. Thoughts need to turn into actions. Changes in thinking necessitate changes in behavior. This is what obedience is. What is the point of reading God's word, if not to actually become more like Him?

Step One: Pray.

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Ask the Holy Spirit to let this text sink in.

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Ask Him to keep you from thinking about applying what you read to others first.

Ask Him to keep you free from distractions.

Step Two: Read.

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Step Three: Observe.

Who is the letter to? What is Paul saying these Ephesians were like at first? Notice verb tenses and conjunctions. Look for the But. What are the two main themes? How did it move from one to the other?

Step Four: Interpret.

What does Paul teach about the state of mankind? How were the Ephesians saved? For what purpose were the Ephesians saved?

Step Five: Apply.

How do I understand my own salvation?
What do I do now that I know I've been saved by grace? What confidence does that give me to live for Jesus? What good works has He prepared before hand for me to walk in?

Step Six: Act.

Knowing all of this, what needs to change in my life? Am I boasting of being a Christian based on my own decisions? Am I afraid of losing my salvation because I might not have done it right? Am I shying away from obedience? What does gratitude look like today? Tomorrow morning? In my vocation here as a student at UCSC?

Step Seven: Repeat.