Bible Study Methods
an invitation to discovery

**SURVEY THE BIG PICTURE**
Survey the big picture by analyzing the . . .
- Historical Context
- Literary Context
- Redemptive Context

**EXPLORE THE PASSAGE**
Carefully explore the biblical text by applying the interpretive approach that best fits the genre of the passage.
(Different genres require different interpretive steps.)

**DISCOVER THE BIG IDEA**
Summarize the results of your interpretive journey.

**RESPOND TO GOD**
Respond to God through his Word.

**STEP TO SURVEY**
- Consult commentaries to establish the author, audience and date
- Create a book summary
- Consider how your passage fits into God’s plan to create a community of redeemed people for his glory through Jesus Christ

**STEP TO EXPLORE**
The following steps are helpful when studying an epistle:
- Create a structural layout
- Read your passage several times making careful observations
- Ask questions for understanding
- Consider interpretive options
- Compare several translations
- Study the meaning of key words
- Consult commentaries

**STEP TO DISCOVER**
- Create a textual outline of your passage
- Summarize the big idea of your passage in a single sentence (the author’s big idea)

**STEP TO RESPOND**
- Determine how the passage applies today by considering how it fits into God’s story
- Consider how the passage exposes your fallen condition
- Consider how the passage points you to Christ and his redemptive work
- Determine personal response(s)

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