



## INTERPRET, UNDERSTAND, AND APPLY

Remember, healthy use of the Bible will:  
REVEAL JESUS & CHANGE OUR LIVES

### MEMORY VERSE

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,  
a workman who does not need to be ashamed  
and who correctly handles the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

For the word of God is living and active.  
Sharper than any double-edged sword,  
it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;  
it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.  
Hebrews 4:12

### PROCESS FOR SCRIPTURE STUDY AND GOOD INTERPRETATION

1. Invite the Holy Spirit to change you according to His will.

2. Ask good interpretation questions.

- Who is the author?  
"A text cannot mean what it never could have meant  
to its author or his or her reader." Gordon Fee
- Who is the audience?
- What kind of literature (genre) is this?
- What are the culturally important issues concerning this text?
- What linguistic devices are used in this passage?
- What clues did the author leave?

3. Read the passage several times and look for important signs.

- Beginnings and endings
- Repetition
- Person speaking has authority, respect, or success
- Special scriptural authority - "As it is written..."
- Emphasis - "Truly, truly..."
- Summarizing point - "For I tell you..." "Therefore..." "So that..."

4. Summarize the author's point.

- What did the author want to communicate to the audience?

5. Ask questions to apply the truth.

- What's the general truth expressed?
- How does this truth apply to my life?
- In light of this passage, what specific change should I make?
- What's my plan to make this change?
- When will I begin?
- Whom will I tell?

### PRACTICE

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing  
of your faith develops perseverance.

<sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work  
so that you may be mature and complete,  
not lacking anything.

James 1:1-4

### NEXT STEPS

Recommended reading:

The Unity of the Bible – Daniel P. Fuller

12 Bible Study Methods – Rick Warren

40 Days in the Word – Rick Warren