

OBSERVATION – be sure you’re accurately understanding what it is saying. Don’t leave things out. Look carefully. Read slowly and listen honestly to what it says.
Slow down and carefully observe what the passage is literally saying on its own.

Martin Luther: “I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall . Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.”

I shake the Bible as a whole, like shaking the whole tree. (The big story – the main themes)

Then I shake every limb— read and study each book to get the fit and the big truths in them.

Then I shake every branch - giving attention to the chapters one by one

Then I shake every twig - careful study the paragraphs and sentences and words and what they mean.

A life time is far too short to begin to fully grasp God’s word. But delight yourself in the daily opportunity to grow to know God through His word as you dig deeper and deeper day after day.

The Big Story – Creation, Fall, Promise, Redemption, Restoration

Creation – God is our Creator, we are accountable creatures under His sovereign rule

Fall – We have rebelled against God’s rule and stand as enemies of God under His judgment

Promise – God promised to send a Savior to rescue us from our sin and rebellion

Redemption – God fulfilled His promise in sending His Son to pay sin’s price and set us free

Restoration – God will ultimately restore all things to perfection eternally under His rule

The Big Story with additional narrative, historical points

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Promise
4. Flood
5. Initiation
6. Redemption
7. Possession
8. Dispossession
9. Repossession
10. Preparation
11. Incarnation
12. Death and Resurrection
13. Great Commission
14. Return and Reign
15. Execution
16. Restoration

Where does it fit? What is its focus?

Observation Questions – WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Fit... where in God's big story – Creation, Fall, Promise, Redemption, Restoration
2. Focus... on sin, judgment, grace, or restoration
3. Failure... what sins are revealed and addressed that we also deal with today
4. Faithfulness... how is God's faithfulness revealed then and now
5. Faith... how are we challenged to believe God, trust and obey Him for His glory

Interpretation Questions – SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Who is the primary recipient of this message?
2. What is timeless that is true for me today?
3. Why is it important for me to understand these things?
4. What is time-limited that applies to another day, people, or situation?
5. What is unclear to me that I want to understand more clearly?

Application Questions – NOW WHAT DO I DO?

1. What is required of me in this passage regardless of time/place/circumstances?
2. How should what it reveals about God affect my perspective, faith and choices?
3. What sins are revealed that I must repent of and confess to God?
4. What promises/principles are revealed that I must depend on and respond to?
5. What commands/choices/consequences are revealed to warn and instruct me?
6. How does this apply to my family, church family, neighbors, friends, whole world?

Simple, Dependable Online Resources to help you study the Bible

ESV Study Bible (English Standard Version) google & type in *esv introduction exodus* (or any book) You get the introduction to any book of the Bible using this method – *esv introduction (book)* The introduction gives you timelines, historical context, main themes, and a map to show you where the events in the book take place

Bible Hub is an excellent resource for bible study commentaries – google *bible hub* and download the app on your computer or phone, or just google bible hub each time you want to look something up – put the bible verse reference or chapter in the line and then click on the “comment” tab and all the commentaries will show up for you to scroll down verse by verse

Blue Letter Bible is another simple resource with study tools – just google Blue Letter Bible and it will get you started... or put this in your browser <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

Suggested Study Bibles: ESV Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible

Suggested CD for Download: Power Bible CD

PHILEMON

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ² and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you— I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.