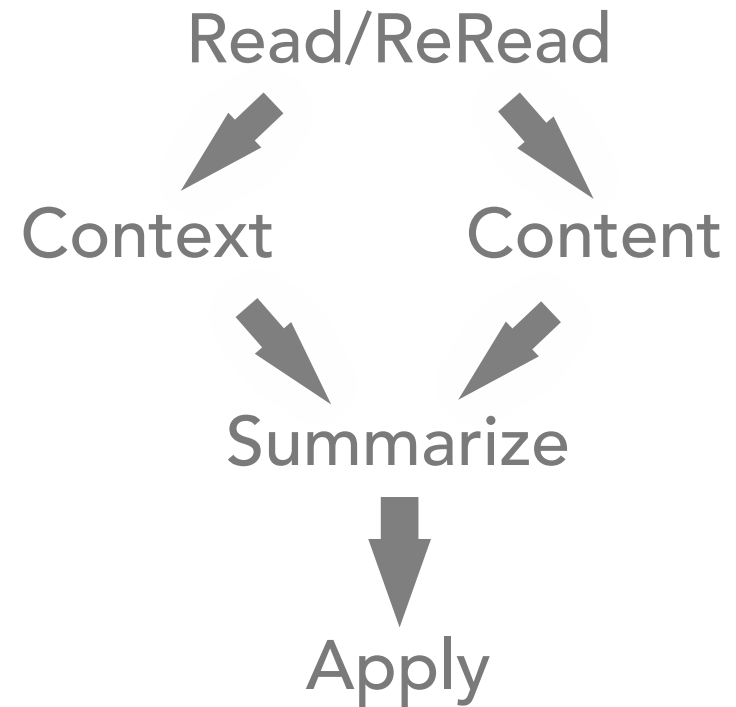


Toolbox

- Good online source: biblestudytools.com, studylight.org, bible.org
 - Good Bible Translations: **NET, ESV, NASB, NIV, NKJV**
 - Bible Dictionary/Encyclopedia: **ISBE, Smith's, Baker's** or **Anchor**
 - Concordance and Cross Reference tool, especially the **New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, Nave's Topical Bible, Torrey's New Topical Textbook**
 - Greek Dictionary: **TNDT abridged in one volume (not online)**
 - Commentaries: **DSBS from William Barclay (not online)** is fun and helpful, also online resources: **Robertson's Word Pictures, Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown (JFB)**
 - Your prayerful Spirit (available on most knees)
 - Reverent Awe
 - Inquisitive Mind
 - Common Sense
 - A little Imagination
-
- **Resources worth buying:**
 1. **International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (1979 edition)**
 2. **TDNT Abridged One Volume (\$25 via Olivetree.com)**
 3. **An Introduction to the Old Testament (Longman&Dillard)**
 4. **An Introduction to the New Testament (Carson&Moo)**
 5. **Daily Study Bible Series (Barclay)**

90 Minute Quiet Time Workflow



Read The Text

- Read, Re-Read, Repeat!!! Take notes about the main subject or “Big Idea” for the passage. Think of yourself as a detective looking for clues to the text’s general idea or theme, alert for anything that will make it clearer.
- Use at least three to four good translations (ESV, NASB, NIV, NET) as you repeatedly read the text.
- Use a Bible or print out of the text which is unmarked so you can start fresh.
- Mark up the text as you make interesting observations and connections.

Context, Context, Context

- **Historical Setting.** In what historical, social, and cultural situation was the passage written? Use a good Bible Dictionary (an important tool), such as the ISBE (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia) or the Anchor Bible Dictionary. Start by looking up the name of the book (e.g. “Luke”) in the dictionary/encyclopedia and reading the introductory material which will provide rich details on the historical context.
- **Biblical or Literary Setting.** How does the passage relate to what precedes and follows it in this book of the Bible? How does it relate to the overall book? Why THIS and why HERE? Is there an overarching argument or proposition in which THIS section of text plays a role? If so, what is THIS text trying to DO to the original reader?
- **Redemptive Setting.** Where in the great story of Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration does this text fall? What does this text tell you about the character of God? What does the text tell you about the nature of man? How does text point forward to the need for Jesus or reflect the work accomplished by Jesus? What do you learn about God’s love for you through this text via the Redemptive Context?

Content

- What kinds of sentences are used? Is it poetry, prose, a parable, an argument, a prophecy, a law, or a command? Does the style (poetry, etc) affect the meaning of the sentence?
- Are there interesting words, phrases, people, or references to biblical events that are used in the text? If so, how do these references help explain this text? Look them up in a Bible Dictionary. Also cross reference these interesting items using a concordance or the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. See if the original language definition provides helpful insights by using a Strong’s Concordance or the Theological Dictionary of the NT (abridged in one volume).

- Does the author use any technical terms? (TDNT or “little Kittel” or EDNT is a great help here for detailed definitions of Greek terms)
- If the text is a narrative, what elements of setting, plot (conflict, suspense, resolution), and character development does each part of the text convey? What is the tone, or mood, of the passage, and what elements convey that tone?
- How do the various parts of the passage reflect and/or address the situation of the readers?
- How does each part of the passage relate to the other parts?
- How does each Part contribute to the whole?
- If I enter the narrative world of this text, what do I see and hear and feel?
- If I join the community that is receiving this letter, what am I being urged to do?
- If I join the psalmist in prayer/song, what are we imagining about God?
- If I am among this crowd encountering Jesus, how do I view Him?

Summarize Your Findings

- What is the main point of each part of the text?
- Why do you think the passage was included in this biblical book? For what main function?
- What claims did the text make upon its original hearers or readers? What response might the author have desired from the readers?
- What is the main idea that the author is talking about?
- What is he saying about this main idea?
- What is the big idea of this passage – stated in a single sentence?
- NOW... Read the passage again using your findings to place you empathetically among the recipients of the original audience and let the passage spring into vivid focus!

Apply It

- THE BASIC RULE
 - A text can’t now mean what it never could have meant!
- THE SECOND RULE
 - When we share comparable life situations with the 1st century setting, God’s word is the same for us, too
- Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves, do what it says!
- While a text has one main meaning, it does have many applications.