

## FATHER'S HEART MINISTRIES

### SIX STEPS TO BASIC BIBLE STUDY

- OBSERVE THE FACTS

What does the Scripture say? Ask the text questions, and write down the answers

Ask questions: Who? + What? = Identifying questions  
When? = Time  
Where? = Place  
How? = Method

Look for names, places, circumstances, reasons, commands, repetition etc.

This is the groundwork for Bible Study

- INTERPRET THE FACTS

What does this mean? Interpretation is closely related with definition and getting to know the ordinary meaning of words in the Bible.

Ask thought questions:

1. Definitive / definition – what does this mean?
2. Rational / reasons why – why is this said here?
3. Implicational / application to life today. Implications are not directly stated in the text.

- SUMMARISE

Put the facts in condensed form. Show main points and detail – outline the facts.

- EVALUATE

Trying to determine whether what you are reading is *an eternal principle or local custom applicable only for today*. Ask : “*Am I reading something that is an eternal principle, universally applicable to everybody? Or is this something that is just for a particular instance.*”

Example: “head covering” Was it only applicable to the time when Paul addressed the Corinthians, or is head covering for woman important today?

- APPLY

This is closely related to evaluation. After you have discovered an eternal principle in a given scripture, you must consider its relationship to us today by asking: “*How would we apply this principle to our own live today?*” (*Holy Spirit to help*)

- CORRELATE

You must consider the whole system of truth to correctly interpret any part of it. Check the context of a verse, or a word. Never interpret a word, or verse outside its context! Remember: words mean different things in different contexts! The step of correlation tries to fit everything into the complete Biblical picture by asking such questions as: “*How do Galatians correlate with Romans*”, or “*How does the verse that I am studying fit in with the total body of Scripture?*”

*Never read your own mind into Scripture!*

## BASIC BIBLE STUDY

### IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Select the text (the verse or passage to study)
- Read and re-read the passage of Scripture
- Give a topic to the passage of Scripture
  
- OBSERVE THE FACTS
  1. Read each individual verse of your Scripture text several times.
  2. Give each verse a two or three word title that briefly summarises the main thought of the verse.
  3. Write these titles on your notebook page, and leave several spaces between them so that factual observations can be placed under each verse title.
  4. Re-read each verse of your Scripture text with the five fact questions in mind: *Who? What? When? How? Where?*
  5. You will be looking also for:
    - (a) Statements of truth
    - (b) Commands to obey
    - (c) Warnings
    - (d) Reasons
    - (e) Promises
    - (f) Repetition (emphasis – why?)
    - (g) Promises
    - (h) Sin to forsake or an error to avoid
    - (i) Names of places and people
  6. Write sub-topics under your verse titles

**Note: Write down all your observations!**

- INTERPRETATION OF FACTS

What does this mean to me? In your own words, write a statement of meaning on your scripture text, taking into consideration all your observations.

**Remember to do the following:**

- (1) Write down the ordinary meaning of words
- (2) Ask your thought questions
  - (a) What do the facts mean?
  - (b) Why is it said here?
  - (c) What does it imply, and how can I apply it to my life?

**Remember, closely related to interpretation is to summarise the facts.**

**Thus, to interpret and to summarise can be seen as one step.**

- EVALUATE, APPLY AND CORRELATE

See six steps to basic Bible study above.

**Remember: when correlating, use cross-references (other Scriptures on the same topic) because Scripture interpret Scripture!**