

# THE SIMPLEST WAY TO STUDY ANY BIBLE PASSAGE

Deep study is important. Reading the whole Bible is important. Studying themes, people, and major teachings in the Bible is important. But what about those days in between "deep" study? These four questions will give you a SIMPLE way to study ANY Bible passage.

This is foundational. Remember, the Bible is written FOR you, but it is written ABOUT God. He is both the author and the main character. The Bible is His story. It is by Him, about Him, and reveals His nature, His character, and His truths.

Whenever you read a verse, paragraph, chapter or book, keep an eye out for what it reveals about who God is. If your time in the Word is primarily relational – rather than informational – then it's a good idea to grow in your knowledge and understanding of the one with whom you're building the relationship!

## ONE

What does this passage say about God?

## TWO

What does this passage say about what God has done?

Pondering what God has done in the past will help us better understand what He is doing in the present. Look for patterns. Look for the imperfect people He interacted with. Look for promises made and fulfilled. Look for times when He spoke and times when He chose silence. BTW...I'm not implying we will ever fully understand everything God has done or is doing. After all, we're talking about the same God who said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways." (Isaiah 55:8, CSB) While we can't understand it all, I have found we can receive great comfort and wisdom in seeing that the same God who has moved is still moving.

## THREE

What does this passage say about who I am?

It is extremely important that you ask #3 before you ask #4. This one is about identity. If you skip this one and only ask #4, you will never find the freedom and joy that comes from living out your identity as a child of God. Jesus wants you to know who are you, not just what He wants you to do. As you read, consider what the passage says about your identity. Not every passage has an "identity message," but there are way more than you'd think. (Ephesians alone has more than 50!) In fact, if you're looking for a place to start, read Ephesians for the next several days and jot down everything Paul writes about who you are in Christ. You will be forever changed!

## FOUR

What is my response to this passage?

Notice that I did not say, "What am I supposed to do?" Sometimes a passage calls you to take some new action. However, there are many other responses as well.

Sometimes the right response is to...

Ponder a truth. Change a thought pattern. Make a decision. Confess a sin. Adjust an attitude. Make a commitment. Sing. Dance. Rejoice. Sit in silence and be still.