



How to Prepare for a COHBC Discovery Bible Study

1st Step: Observation: (What do you see?)

Your goal is to discern “the facts” like a good detective. Identify the obvious, but press to *observe* what a surface reading does not see. “*You see but you do not observe.*” *Sherlock Holmes*

- Who? What? When? Where?
- Identify people, places, events, cultural issues etc.
- Consider important nouns: Subjects, objects, singular or plural, repetition...
- Consider important verbs: Active/Passive, Singular/plural, Past/Present/Future, Ongoing/punctiliar Commands...

2nd Step Interpretation: (What does it mean?)

Your goal in this step is to ask and answer the question, ‘What does it mean?’ Your quest is to interpret the facts.

- Why does the biblical author say it this way?
- What is the meaning of important words?
- Where is the author going with what he said?
- What is the primary theme the author is driving at?
- How is the passage structured (main points)?
- How does this passage fit within the theme of the book?
- What biblical cross-references help to understand the passage?

3rd Step: Application: (How does it apply?)

In this step you ask & answer the question, “How does this passage practically work in my life?” The Bible is relevant because it is God’s truth revealed to us.

- How do the truths in this passage specifically apply to my life?
- Areas to consider: Attitudes, actions, sin to confess, a promise to trust, relationships, family, work, school, church, ministry, evangelism, holiness, thoughts, speech, finances, fears etc.

For more info see: *Living by the Book*, Howard & William Hendricks