

Step 1: Observation

First just take notes. Write down all your observations and Questions. As you learn more you'll add more to this list, but start here first!

READ

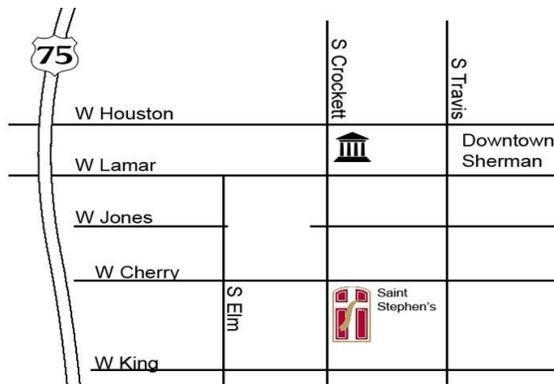
- ⇒ Carefully and Intentionally
- ⇒ Out Loud
- ⇒ Different Translations
- ⇒ Entire Sections

LOOK

- ⇒ Who are the people involved?
- ⇒ When does it take place?
- ⇒ Where does it take place?
- ⇒ What are the circumstances?
- ⇒ Why was this written?
- ⇒ How does this passage “fit” with the rest?

MARK

- ⇒ Words and phrases
- ⇒ They type (genre) of writing
- ⇒ Fascinating things
- ⇒ Confusing things
- ⇒ Things said and not said
- ⇒ Important things
- ⇒ Weird things
- ⇒ Questions you have



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[Sunday Christian Education](#)

Christian Formation (All Ages) 8:30AM

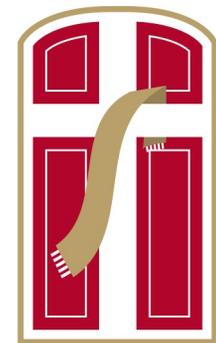
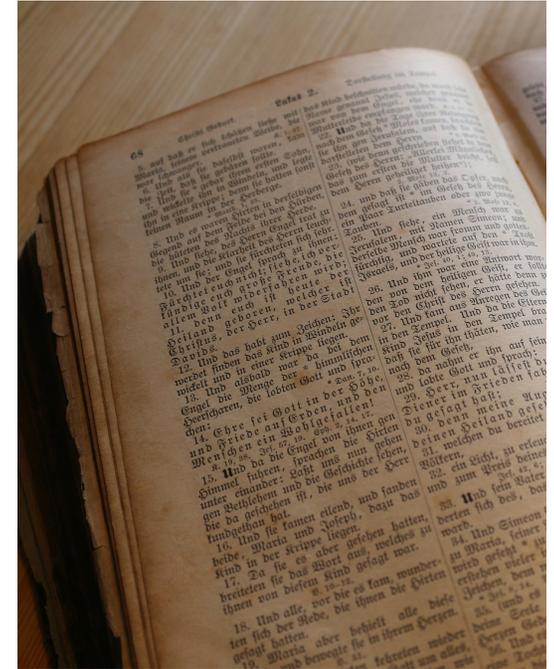
[Sunday Worship](#)



Historic Faith

Sustaining Love

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

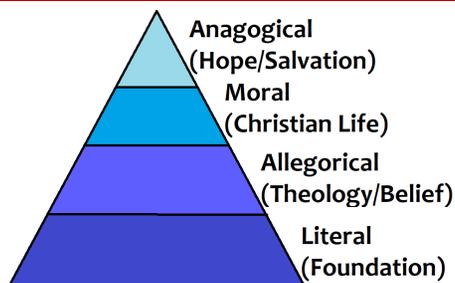


ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TO BE FULL OF FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 6:5)

Step 2: Interpretation

Next start to figure out what the text is saying. At this step it may be helpful to start making your own paraphrase.

KEEP IN MIND THE 4 SENSES



- ⇒ What does the text say?
- ⇒ What can I learn about God or the Faith?
- ⇒ What can I learn about Christian living?
- ⇒ What can I learn about God's plan of salvation and future hope?

PAY ATTENTION TO GENRE

- ⇒ History? ⇒ Prophecy?
- ⇒ Poetry? ⇒ (Apocalyptic?)
- ⇒ Proverbial? ⇒ Legal Code?
- ⇒ Occasional Letter?

PAY ATTENTION TO CONTEXT

Literary

How does this passage fit into the book as a whole? Other books by the same author? The Bible? What here is a figure of speech or metaphor? If metaphor, what is the metaphor for?

Historical

Are historical events reflected in what the author is saying? How may geographical location play into the passage?

Cultural

How would the culture at the time understand the passage? How does our culture differ from the writers? How may this be effecting the way the author is communicating? (This is an issue of interpretation, not truthfulness.)

Theological

What are the overriding concerns and ideas in the passage? What does the passage say about God? Salvation? Other issues?

Ecclesial

How has the Church interpreted this before you? How does the passage fit into the Creedal Faith?

Tips on figures of speech!

- Check other translations
- Keep genre in mind
- What is the meaning it conveys?
- Am I biased in wanting it to only be a metaphor?

CONSULT SOURCES

- ⇒ Concordance
- ⇒ Bible Atlas
- ⇒ Bible Dictionary/Encyclopedia
- ⇒ Commentary
- ⇒ Theology Books and Journals

Step 3: Application

Read for transformation, not just information!

KEEP IN MIND!

Descriptive: When the text is only describing a Situation. Not intended to be taken as a command or a norm. No "ought".

VS.

Prescriptive: When the text is either giving a direct command or providing a norm. Direct or implied "ought".

Know

The text and yourself



Relate

How the text connects to your life



Meditate (Ponder about)

On what the text says



Practice

What you have learned

- ⇒ Is there an example to follow?
- ⇒ Is there a sin to avoid?
- ⇒ Is there a command to obey?
- ⇒ Is there a habit to start?
- ⇒ Is there a prayer to say?
- ⇒ Is there a challenge to face?