



HOW TO  
STUDY YOUR

# BIBBLE

A RESOURCE FOR WOMEN

STUDY GUIDE #3: APPLICATION



# HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

A RESOURCE FOR WOMEN

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## OVERVIEW

### Interpretation — What Does the Text Mean for me?

Observation and interpretation without application ultimately fails the student. Bible study without application leaves the process incomplete and spiritually ineffective. The goal of Bible study is not just accumulation of information. **It's transformation.**

### HOW TO:

Ask “How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?”

### To answer this, ask nine guiding questions:

1. What does this passage tell me about God (Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit)?
2. How does this passage point me to Jesus?
3. What does this passage tell me about who I am?
4. Is there a command for me to obey?
5. Is there a principle for me to follow?
6. Is there a sin for me to avoid?
7. Is there something I need to repent of?
8. How does this passage apply to my relationships?
9. How does this passage lead me to worship?

### HELPFUL HINT

The text first teaches us who **God** is, then who **we** are in view of Him. Begin with **God-centered** questions—then move to personal reflection and life application.

### Word of Caution

Application is often the first step people jump to when studying the Bible. They skip observation and interpretation and immediately ask, “*What does this passage mean to me?*”

Instead, we want to ask, “*How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?*”

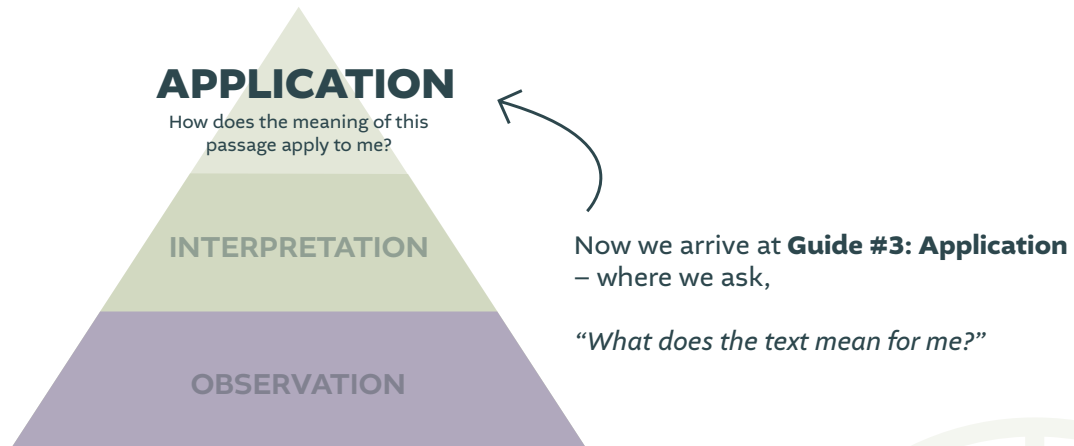
Our lives must be shaped by Scripture—not the other way around.



## LESSON 1: THE NECESSITY OF APPLICATION

Congratulations! You've made it to the third and final study guide! Let's quickly refresh where we've been:

- **Guide #1: Observation** – “What does the text say?”
- **Guide #2: Interpretation** – “What does the text mean?”



What's your favorite hobby? Are there any bakers out there?

If so, you've likely spent time studying baking—from the science behind it to the terminology. You've observed, you've learned, and now you're ready to bake!

But imagine gathering all that knowledge and never stepping into the kitchen to actually bake. That would be a shame, right? The same is true when it comes to studying God's Word.

**Observation and interpretation without application ultimately fails the student. Bible study without application leaves the process incomplete and spiritually ineffective.**

As silly as the example might sound, it's a common mistake. Many people stop at interpretation. They don't take the next step.

Sister, we must go further.

The goal of Bible study is not just the accumulation of information—it's **transformation**.





Look up **2 Timothy 3:16**.

How are the Scriptures profitable for us?  
(*Hint: There are four ways listed in the text.*)

- The Scriptures **teach** us – what is right.
- The Scriptures **rebuke** us – what is wrong.
- The Scriptures **correct** us – how to get right.
- The Scriptures **train** us in righteousness – how to stay right and grow.

#### READ HEBREWS 4:12

- How is the Word of God described?
- What is the Word of God doing?

#### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-13

- Who is the one doing the work of the Word in our hearts?

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How have you seen the Word of God personally at work in your life?
- What is significant about the Holy Spirit using Scripture in your life?
- What responsibility do we have to grow in the Word?



## LESSON 2: APPLYING TRUTH

Application is often the first step people jump to when studying the Bible. They skip observation and interpretation and go straight to asking:

**“What does this passage mean to me?”**

Now think for a moment. Who is at the center of that question? Who or what is the focus?

**“ME.”**

You’ve likely noticed by now that the Bible isn’t about us. It’s about God.

It is His Word, given by Him, so that we might grow in Him, for the glory of Him.

So, instead of asking, **“What does this passage mean to me?”** we must ask, **“How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?”**

Our lives must be shaped by Scripture—not the other way around.

To answer the question, **“How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?”** you can ask several guiding questions.

Over the next few pages, we’ll explore nine application questions, many of which are adapted from Howard Hendricks’ *Living by the Book*.

Get your pen and paper ready!

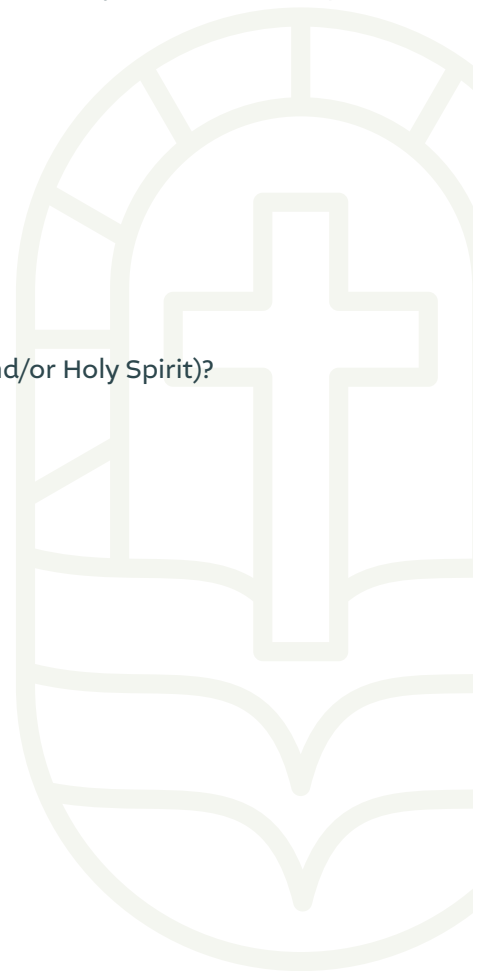
Remember: the Scriptures are our roadmap to Jesus.

**READ LUKE 24:27 AND JOHN 5:39-40, 46**

1. What does this passage tell me about God (Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit)?
2. How does this passage point me to Jesus?
3. What does this passage tell me about who I am?  
*Notice it’s not the first question for a reason.*
4. Is there a command for me to obey?
5. Is there a principle for me to follow?
6. Is there a sin for me to avoid?
7. Is there something I need to repent of?
8. How does this passage apply to my relationships?
9. How does this passage lead me to worship?

Ready to put it into practice?

Check out the exercises in **Guide #3: Application Practice**.





At this point, you may have a few questions. Let's try to address them.

- **Can we make more than one application from a passage?**

In short: **yes!**

There is always one timeless meaning of a passage, but there can be many applications.

- **Does this take time?**

Yes, it does.

As we've noted, application is vital to the Christian walk. In our fast-paced world, we have to be willing to slow down, get quiet and sit with the Scriptures—allowing them to work in us.

But remember, knowing the Word and growing in Christ is a lifelong journey. The same passage may apply in different ways during different seasons of life. **Application is a process that unfolds over a lifetime.**

- **What if I haven't been convicted through God's Word in a while ... or ever?**

We're not saying you should be in sackcloth and ashes every day. But if it's been a few months—or longer—since you've experienced the conviction of the Spirit through the Word, it might be time to re-examine how you're studying the Bible.

- **What if I only see my shortcomings when I read the Bible? I thought this was supposed to be encouraging.**

That's why the first two application questions focus on **who God is** and **how the passage points to Jesus**. The Bible is first and foremost about God and His redemptive plan. Read Scripture through the lens of the cross—the lens of the gospel—and get to know the heart of God for you.

- **I just don't have enough time to go through all the steps of Bible study every day, what do I do?**

You're not alone!

Here are a few practical suggestions:

- Carve out one or two hours a week to walk through all the steps of Bible study.
- Focus on one passage for an entire week, dividing the process over seven days.
- Join a Bible study at your local church. As you participate, apply the process you've learned here to the passage or book you're studying.

As we close this study guide, we hope and pray this resource has been a blessing to you. We praise God for the work He has begun in you, and we trust that He will carry it to completion at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Philippians 1:6*)



“Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;  
 And I will keep it to the end.  
 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.  
 Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
 For I delight in it.  
 Incline my heart to your testimonies,  
 And not to selfish gain!  
 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
 And give me life in your ways.  
 Confirm to your servant your promise,  
 That you may be feared.  
 Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
 For your rules are good.  
**Behold, I long for your precepts;  
 In your righteousness give me life!”**

PSALM 119:33-40

## APPLICATION PRACTICE:

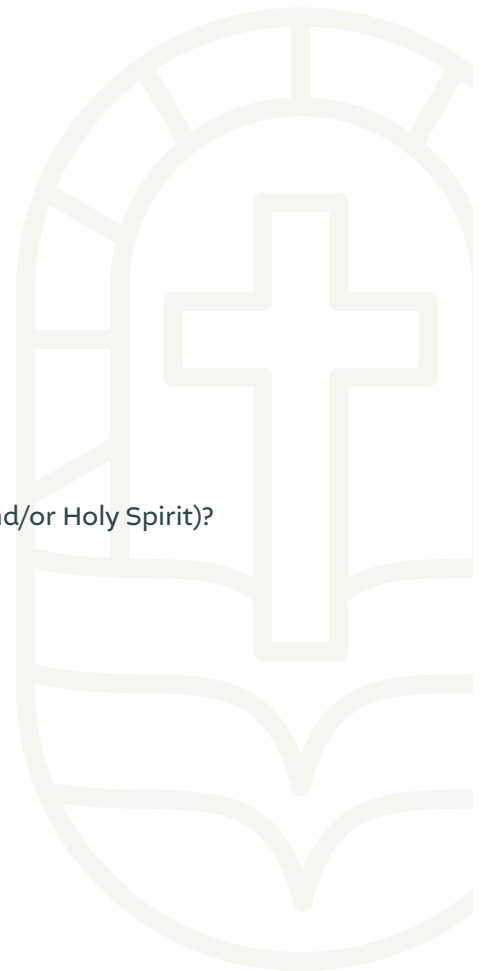
### Old Testament Exercise

READ: NUMBERS 21:4-9

Ask: How does the meaning of this text apply to me?

### Reflection Questions:

- What does this passage tell me about God (Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit)?
- How does this passage point me to Jesus?
- What does this passage tell me about who I am?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a principle for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there something I need to repent of?
- How does this passage apply to my relationships?
- How does this passage lead me to worship?



## New Testament Exercise

**READ: PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20**

Ask: How does the meaning of this text apply to me?

### Reflection Questions:

- What does this passage tell me about God (Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit)?
- How does this passage point me to Jesus?
- What does this passage tell me about who I am?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a principle for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there something I need to repent of?
- How does this passage apply to my relationships?
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