

READING YOUR BIBLE



with confidence

DISCOVERY GUIDE

FOUNDATION: WHERE DO I BEGIN?

1. Pray

2. Historical Questions:

- Who wrote it?
- To whom was it written?
- When was it written?
- In what style was it written?
- Why was it written?

3. Read and reread the passage:

- Read from multiple translations.
- Summarize the passage in 1-2 sentences.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

1. Ask basic questions about the text:

- Who? List the characters in the passage.
- What? What is happening?
- When? Past, present or future?
- Where? Describe the location or setting.
- Why? Why is this important?
- How? How are other Scriptures connected?

2. Look for:

- Key words.
- Repeated words, ideas or phrases.
- Transition words, such as but, therefore, if, then, etc.
- Contrasts and comparisons.
- Lists.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. What was being communicated to the original audience?

Focus on the context(s).
(textual, cultural, geographical, etc.)
How does passage fit within
the overarching story of the Bible?
Creation > Fall > Redemption > Restoration

2. Use additional resources:

Cross-references in your Bible.
English and Bible dictionaries.
Reliable commentaries.
Trusted online resources.

APPLICATION: HOW DOES THE TEXT CHANGE ME?

1. What does this passage teach me about God?

2. How does this aspect of God's character apply to me?

3. What should I do in response?

Do I have a sin to confess?
Do I have a sin to avoid?
Is there a command to obey?
Is there an example to follow?
Is there a promise to claim?



FAITH AT HOME

FAITHATHOMENC.ORG