

1. Get ready

- a. try to be in a spiritual mindset
- b. confess your sins
- c. be humble, teachable, ready to obey

2. Ask questions

- a. who was writing
- b. to whom were they writing
- c. when were they writing
- d. what was happening when this person wrote
- e. what else has the writer written?

3. Read passage (several times through)

- a. several translations
- b. out loud and to self
- c. have others read to you or listen on audio Bible
- d. get the big picture; ask yourself: "broadly, at least, do I understand the passage"

4. Be aware. (Look for:)

- a. key words (words that the passage hinges on)
- b. repeated words
- c. repeated phrases
- d. parallelisms (especially in the Psalms and OT)
- e. contrasts
- f. take notes (don't mark in your Bible yet; mark in a notebook or computer)

5. Draw preliminary conclusions

- a. start piecing the picture together
- b. concentrate on what you *do* understand in the passage
- c. what are the principles derived from the specifics?

6. Confirm conclusions

- a. do your conclusions fit with larger Biblical context
- b. Spirit of Prophecy
- c. Bible Commentaries (always remember these are the words of man)
- d. others' interpretation (friends, pastor, journals, etc.)

7. Apply

- a. listen to the voice of the Spirit
- b. examine own life (not others!)
- c. is there a key verse you should memorize that will help you to apply lesson in life?
- d. make Spirit-led effort to apply principles
- e. pray
- f. share