

# WOMEN OF THE WORD METHOD: AN OVERVIEW

When you begin to study a book of the Bible, start by reading it over and over. As you familiarize yourself with the book, begin to work through Jen Wilkin's five steps for Bible study (*Women of the Word*).

Jen says, "The Five P's...are not a checklist, but a set of practices that interrelate and overlap (p. 110)." This guide primarily focuses on three of these (purpose, perspective, and process), but don't forget the other two – patience and prayer, which are absolutely necessary throughout one's study.

There are two sets of worksheets. The first set is for those who would like built-in reminders for the process. The second set does not include reminders and is for those who would like more space to write.

**1. Study with Purpose:** "Try to understand where your text fits into the Big Story of the Bible. What part does it play in telling the story of creation-fall-redemption-consummation? How does it point to the reign and rule of God? This will get clearer with further study. Just get a general idea as you begin (consult the introductory material in your study Bible or a commentary) and commit to keeping the question in the back of your mind as you go" (Ch. 3, pp. 49-58 & Ch. 8, pp. 109-112, *Women of the Word*).

**2. Study with Perspective:** "Using a study Bible, trusted commentary, or both, answer the archaeological questions below. Take your time so that once you begin reading, you will be able to listen for how the letter would have been heard by its original audience" (Ch. 8, p. 112 & Ch. 4, pp. 59-72).

- 1) Who wrote it?
- 2) When was it written?
- 3) To whom was it written?
- 4) In what style was it written?
- 5) Why was it written?

**3. Study with Patience:** "Resolve not to hurry. Set a realistic expectation for your pace of study, focusing on the long term" (Ch. 5). This is where timers can be helpful to keep your study focused & sustainable.

**4. Study with Process:** "Begin methodically reading for comprehension, interpretation, and application" (Ch. 6, & Ch. 8, p. 110, 113-122).

Comprehension – What Does It Say?

- 1) A Printed Copy of the Text – With markers or colored pencils, mark repeated words, phrases or ideas, etc. (pp. 89-90). Note: you can print a copy from [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).
- 2) Repetitive Reading (pp. 90-92)
- 3) Annotation – "Are certain words, phrases, or ideas repeated? Is a particular attribute of God described? Does the text make several points in a row? Are there words you don't understand? Are there key transition words? Is an idea confusing? Mark them on your printed copy" (pp. 92-93).
- 4) Consult an English Dictionary for definitions (pp. 93-94).
- 5) Read the passage in other translations of the Bible (p. 94).
- 6) Outline the passage (p. 94 & especially pp. 114-116).

Interpretation – What Does It Mean?

- 1) Cross-references (p. 96 & 116)
- 2) Paraphrasing (p. 97 & 117, 120)
- 3) Consulting commentary (p. 120)

Application – How Should It Change Me?

- 1) What does this passage teach me about God?
- 2) How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?
- 3) What should I do in response? (Ch. 8, pp. 120-122 & Ch. 6, pp. 98-101)

**5. Study with Prayer:** "Ask the Father to help you before, during, and after your study time" (Ch. 7).

# STUDY WITH PURPOSE

How does this book fit into the overarching storyline of the Bible (i.e. the metanarrative)? What major themes does it explore that are expressed elsewhere in Scripture? Consider [this excerpt](#) from the Study with Purpose chapter of *Women of the Word* for more guidance.

THEME	THOUGHTS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/FACTS
CREATION	
FALL/REBELLION	
REDEMPTION	
RESTORATION/ CONSUMMATION	

# STUDY WITH PERSPECTIVE

## THE FIVE QUESTIONS

Read through the book you are studying at least once, then jot down any insights and questions you have about the historical context of the letter. If you have a study Bible, the introduction to the book can be a very helpful source for answering these questions.

<b>WHO WROTE IT?</b>  1	
<b>WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  2	
<b>TO WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  3	
<b>IN WHAT STYLE WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  4	
<b>WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  5	

# STUDY WITH PROCESS

## COMPREHENSION | PASSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

Reminders for comprehension: In this stage, we want to take a close look at what the passage actually says. Using a variety of colored pencils or highlighters, look for the following things listed below, and annotate the passage in a printed copy of the text (note: you can print it from [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)). Consider assigning a different color to each category. Then record your most significant findings below.

<b>REPEATED WORDS, PHRASES, OR IDEAS</b>  1	Feel free to make tally marks next to a word to track which ones appear most often. Words that appear at both the beginning and end of a letter are also significant.
<b>ATTRIBUTES OF GOD</b>  2	What does this passage tell me about who God is?
<b>TRANSITION WORDS</b>  3	Note words like therefore, so, but, also, etc. and mark in your text the passages they connect.
<b>WORDS TO DEFINE</b>  4	Write words here that you'd like to better understand or that seem central, then look them up in a dictionary. You can also use the Blue Letter Bible app.
<b>QUESTIONS</b>  5	Your questions are key. What doesn't make sense? What seems to conflict with other parts of Scripture or with what you previously believed? Don't Google for answers. Sit with the tension and discuss first!

# STUDY WITH PROCESS

## INTERPRETATION | PASSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

The interpretation stage is when we ask **“What does it mean?”** Read the passage again and look over your notes from last time. What questions do you still have? This is when you will try to answer them, as you seek to uncover the main idea of the text.

<b>CROSS-REFERENCES</b>  1	Look back at your questions from the comprehension stage; use cross-references to allow Scripture to interpret Scripture.
<b>SUMMARIZING</b>  2	In 4-5 sentences, explain what this passage is about.
<b>WHAT OTHERS SAY</b>  3	Once you’ve done the above work, consider what others say. This could include insights from study Bible notes, a trusted commentary, or a sermon.
<b>MAIN IDEA</b>  4	Distill the meaning of the passage into a single sentence. What was the author’s main point?

# STUDY WITH PROCESS

## APPLICATION | PASSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

The last step of the inductive Bible study process is application. This is the stage when we ask **“How should I respond?”** Start by considering what the passage says about who God is and what He has done, and how that should inform your view of yourself. In light of that, is there a truth to believe, a promise to claim, a warning to heed, or an action to take?

<p><b>WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE TEACH ME ABOUT GOD?</b></p> <p>1</p>	<p>e.g. John 13 – By washing his disciples’ feet, Jesus demonstrated that He came to be a servant. This showed them God’s love.</p>
<p><b>HOW DOES THIS ASPECT OF GOD’S CHARACTER CHANGE/INFORM MY VIEW OF SELF?</b></p> <p>2</p>	<p>e.g. John 13 – Jesus was clear that He was setting an example for them – and us – to follow. If He was a servant, then we who follow Him must view ourselves as servants, too.</p>
<p><b>WHAT SHOULD I DO IN RESPONSE?</b></p> <p>3</p>	<p>Be as specific as possible. Consider both attitudes and actions. e.g. In response to John 13, I must view no task as beneath me, but rather as an opportunity for humble service. One way I can put this into action is that when help is needed resetting the sanctuary, I will jump in before being asked.</p>

# STUDY WITH PURPOSE

THEME	THOUGHTS/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/FACTS
CREATION	
FALL/REBELLION	
REDEMPTION	
RESTORATION/ CONSUMMATION	

# STUDY WITH PERSPECTIVE

## THE FIVE QUESTIONS

<b>WHO WROTE IT?</b>  1	
<b>WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  2	
<b>TO WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  3	
<b>IN WHAT STYLE WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  4	
<b>WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?</b>  5	



# STUDY WITH PROCESS

COMPREHENSION | PASSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REPEATED WORDS, PHRASES, OR IDEAS</b>  1	
<b>ATTRIBUTES OF GOD</b>  2	
<b>TRANSITION WORDS</b>  3	
<b>WORDS TO DEFINE</b>  4	
<b>QUESTIONS</b>  5	



# STUDY WITH PROCESS

APPLICATION | PASSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DOES THE  
PASSAGE TEACH ME  
ABOUT GOD?**

1

**HOW DOES THIS  
ASPECT OF GOD'S  
CHARACTER  
CHANGE/INFORM MY  
VIEW OF SELF?**

2

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IN  
RESPONSE?**

3