



## The COMMA Method

1. Write the date and the passage you are studying at the top of the page.
2. Take a moment to pray. Ask God to speak clearly to you through his Word.
3. Read the entire passage at least twice. It helps to read a few translations.
4. Work through each of the five sections of COMMA. See back cover for sample questions.
  - C** - *Context* is taking note of what comes before and after the selected passage.
  - O** - *Observation* is looking for the big picture and then zooming in to get the details.
  - M** - *Meaning* is understanding what the author intended to say to the original audience.
  - M** - *Main Idea* is finding the center of the circle, the bull's eye. What is God saying?
  - A** - *Application* is responding to God's Word with repentance, faith, and obedience.
5. Spend a few minutes in silence, meditating on what God has said to you in the Scripture.

## Study Plans

Here's a list of suggested study plans to get you started.

### Genesis 1-11

1. Genesis 1:1-2:3
2. Genesis 2:4-25
3. Genesis 3
4. Genesis 4-5
5. Genesis 6-7
6. Genesis 8:1-9:17
7. Genesis 9:18-10:32
8. Genesis 11

### Ruth

1. Ruth 1:1-5
2. Ruth 1:6-18
3. Ruth 1:19-22
4. Ruth 2:1-13
5. Ruth 2:14-23
6. Ruth 3:1-18
7. Ruth 4:1-10
8. Ruth 4:11-22

### Psalms

1. Psalm 1
2. Psalm 2
3. Psalm 42
4. Psalm 46
5. Psalm 73
6. Psalm 74
7. Psalm 90
8. Psalm 91
9. Psalm 107
10. Psalm 110
11. Psalm 121
12. Psalm 148

### Micah

1. Micah 1-2
2. Micah 3
3. Micah 4
4. Micah 5:1-6
5. Micah 5:7-15
6. Micah 6:1-5
7. Micah 6:6-8
8. Micah 6:9-16
9. Micah 7:1-20

### Mark

1. Mark 1:1-15
2. Mark 1:16-2:12
3. Mark 2:13-3:6
4. Mark 3:7-35
5. Mark 4:1-34
6. Mark 4:35-5:43
7. Mark 6
8. Mark 7
9. Mark 8:1-21
10. Mark 8:22-9:1
11. Mark 9:2-50
12. Mark 10:1-31
13. Mark 10:32-52
14. Mark 11:1-25
15. Mark 11:27-12:44
16. Mark 13
17. Mark 14:1-52
18. Mark 14:53-72
19. Mark 15:1-41
20. Mark 15:42-16:20

### Romans 5-8

1. Romans 5:1-11
2. Romans 5:12-21
3. Romans 6:1-14
4. Romans 6:15-23
5. Romans 7:1-6
6. Romans 7:7-25
7. Romans 8:1-17
8. Romans 8:18-39

### Colossians

1. Colossians 1:1-14
2. Colossians 1:15-23
3. Colossians 1:24-2:5
4. Colossians 2:6-15
5. Colossians 2:16-23
6. Colossians 3:1-4
7. Colossians 3:5-17
8. Colossians 3:18-4:1
9. Colossians 4:2-18

### First John

1. 1 John 1:1-2:11
2. 1 John 2:12-17
3. 1 John 2:18-3:10
4. 1 John 3:11-4:6
5. 1 John 4:7-21
6. 1 John 5:1-12
7. 1 John 5:13-21



## Context

- What was written right before this and right after this?
- What sort of writing is this (history, law, story, poetry, gospel, prophecy)?
- What do you know about the human author?
- Who was the original audience? What background information would be helpful?
- What has happened so far in the story?
- Why was it written? What questions are being answered?
- How does it fit into the larger story of the Bible (i.e., creation, fall, redemption, glory)?

## Observation

- How is the text divided? Look for transition words (i.e., therefore, and, but, thus).
- Can you outline the passage?
- What is the plot? Where are the high points and low points in the story?
- What is the tone? What is the mood?
- What people, places, things, and ideas are mentioned?
- Are there any words you need to define or look up?
- What words or ideas are repeated?
- What jumps out to you?
- What are you curious about?

## Meaning

- What questions do you have about this passage?
- What is the logical flow of thought?
- What is the author trying to communicate to the original audience?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about ourselves?
- What does this passage reveal about Jesus?
- How does this passage point to the need for God's grace?
- What other parts of the Bible shed light on the meaning of this passage?

## Main Idea

- What is God trying to communicate to us?
- Can you summarize the passage in one sentence?
- Are there any summary statements in the text?
- If you wrote an essay about this passage, what would the title be?
- What would you post on social media about this passage?

## Application

- How does God want you to respond to this Scripture?
- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- How does this passage make you feel? How should it make you feel?
- Did God reveal any sin that you need to turn away from?
- How does your heart attitude need to change?
- What is something you need to believe?
- How do you need to change the way you are living?