

TEST – LEARNING GUIDE
BIBLE STUDY TOOLS AND METHODS

WEEK ONE

Question: What is the hermeneutical circle?

Question: How can our previous religious and life experiences shape the way we read the bible and what we believe about God?

Question: How can our culture shape the way we read the bible and what we believe about God?

Question: Why is it important to reexamine our previous conclusions about the bible and our beliefs?

Question: What are some group-think pressures that can shape what people believe about God and practice their faith?

Question: To whom does the MEANING of a bible passage belong? Why?

- a. The reader
- b. No one
- c. The author

WEEK TWO

Question: Define the term “genre”; why does identifying the “genre” of the text you are reading matter?

Exercise: Identify the genre of the following bible passages and discuss how this might affect the way we read / interpret the passage.

(cheaters note: You can highlight the passage(s) below and ask Chat GPT what genre the text falls into. Example; ask ChatGPT “what genre is Proverbs 22:6?”)

- 1) Revelation Chapters 1:4 – 3:22
- 2) Proverbs 22:6
- 3) 1 Cor 5:1-13
- 4) Exodus 20:1-21

Question: Why is “context” the most important factor in bible reading?

Question: Name an issue in the New Testament in which historical and background information is necessary for good bible understanding and application?

Question: What is the difference between the “meaning” of a text and the “application” or timeless truths we take away from the text?

Question: Why it is important to understand the setting the context of the church to whom a letter, gospel, or historical book is written?

Exercise: Describe the “meaning” and “significance” (timeless lessons) from the following passage

Luke 14:26 26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

- Meaning: _____
- Significance / timeless lesson: _____

WEEK THREE

Question: What is the topic that you want to research for this course?

Exercise: Use the 1-2-3s of theology worksheet to look up relevant passages. Follow the instructions on the sheet to complete the exercise.

Exercise: Write a summary of each bible passage that pertains to your research topic. In everyday language describe what that passage tells us about your research question.

WEEK FOUR

Exercise: Take the summary statements of all your passages and work them into a single paragraph that explains what all these passages tell us about your topic. In other words, you are answering the question; “what does the bible say about ___(insert your topic question)___.”

WEEK FIVE

Exercise: Double check your work and read other scholarly sources that speak to your topic.

Question: how close did you come to good commentaries on summarizing what the bible says about your topic?

WEEK SIX

Exercise: Read debate and journalism guidelines in the “handouts” document.

Exercise: Come up with talking points that would help you defend your position in a debate. List arguments an opponent might voice in a debate with you.