

Digging Deeper

Experiencing “Discovery” Bible Study

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Additional Notes

“Discovery Bible Study” ... What is it?

Otherwise often referred to as “_____ Bible Study”

Does not come to a passage of Scripture with an “agenda” or preconception about what it teaches.

Approaches a passage of Scripture with something called “_____” – _____ before it seeks to interpret

Learns to ask the right questions of a passage – fundamentally “_____” in its approach

- It focuses on a “_____” of Scripture, not necessarily a “chapter” in the Bible – can be as little as a couple of verses, a single chapter, or be more than a chapter.
- A “Passage” is... any amount of connected Biblical material that develops a _____.

“Discovery Bible Study” – A 7 Step Process

1. Identify the “_____” of a passage in the words of the Biblical writer himself
2. Then follow the Biblical writer’s “_____” – how the key, unifying idea is developed in the passage.
3. Look for “_____” clues in the passage (and neighboring context”) and develop a mental picture of the situation the passage was written to, from or about.
4. Look for “_____ clues” in the passage. What was the inspired writer (directed by the Holy Spirit) seeking to do – to accomplish in the passage? [Steps 1-4 are all... _____!]
5. Now then, look at what the passage says in light of the situation and the writer’s purpose – its _____ “to them, then and there!” [This is _____!]
6. Now, try to identify a situation that is _____ to the one in the passage and ask, “How does what this passage teaches _____ to similar situations in our world today – to “us, here and now]?” [_____!]
7. Now, in light of the writer’s purpose, ask “What am I... what are we going to do about it?” [_____!]

Shall We Give it a Try? – 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Observation/Interpretation Questions

In this passage Apostle Paul talks about three key individuals or groups. Scan the passage... can you identify who they are?

1. Who does Apostle Paul focus on first in this passage? (Verses 10-11) What does He remind them of?
2. Who does he talk about next? (Verses 12-13) What does he say about them?
3. Finally, who does Paul address? (Verses 14-17) Why? What appears to be his concern?

So what appears to be Paul's BIG solution to the challenges that Timothy was facing in Ephesus (and that they would face in the future)? [A word used twice in this passage – verses 14-17] ... Hint: This is the "key, unifying idea in this passage!")

We probably need to do a little work on the situation that Paul is writing to, from or about in this passage (and the surrounding context). ... What does it appear Timothy and the believers Paul is writing were facing? What was Paul's warning and prediction? What had Paul been experiencing? (3:11-13; also 3:1-9; 4:3-5)

Application/Response Questions

How do you feel when you read Paul's inspired prediction in verses 12-13 of this passage (and elsewhere in this book)? Does persecution (and do "deceivers") pose any challenges for Christians today? What are some of them?

What importance did Paul place on Timothy's early religious education? Do you think this is any less important today for our children and youth?

What are our anchors – our foundation – that can help us in troublesome times – times of persecution and false teaching?

How important do you think it is for us to know and apply what the Bible teaches today? What can it do for us that Paul told Timothy it could do for them?

How important is it for our children to know what the Bible teaches? How is this going to happen? Who is responsible?

What are some concrete steps we ought to take in light of this?