

An Interpretation & Application Worksheet

The worksheet below can serve as a guide for interpreting and applying a passage of Scripture. Most steps are cross-referenced to the related discussion in this three-part study on interpretation. Following these steps (and reviewing the instructions as needed) should result in a proper interpretation and help to determine how the passage is to be applied in regard to beliefs about God, daily living (including morals and ethics), and religious practices. Additional resources may be helpful (see "Sources of Information to Help with Interpretation"). This page can be used as a model or may be copied and used for multiple studies.

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Passage: _____

Exegesis

Is the passage in the Old Testament or the New Testament? _____

What type of literature is it? (Review the categories.) _____

What are the most important ideas from the passage? _____

What should be noted about the larger context? _____

Are any structures or sentences particularly noteworthy? _____

What are some key words in the passage? _____

Is there any figurative language that requires special interpretation? _____

In summary, what did this passage mean to the first readers? Is this the most obvious interpretation of the passage? _____

Application

In what area does this passage apply to us today? (Circle one.) 1 Bible Knowledge 2 Daily Living 3 Religious Practice

What are the most important ideas from the passage? _____

Are there questions surrounding this passage or subject that should be considered? _____

What are the theological implications of the passage? _____

What do related passages say on this subject? _____

Does the passage give a command, an example, or a principle for us to follow? Does it present standards for our moral or ethical behavior or instruct us in how to worship God? _____

Are there other implications to consider? Is any practice excluded by the passage? _____

See the lessons from "Interpreting the Scriptures, 2"

See the lessons from "Interpreting the Scriptures, 1": "Looking at the Larger Context of the Passage"; "Studying the Structures in the Book Containing the Passage"; "Analyzing the Sentences in the Passage"; "Focusing on the Words in the Passage"; "Recognizing and Interpreting Figurative Language in the Passage"

See the lessons from "Interpreting the Scriptures, 3": "How to Apply a Passage to Our Beliefs About God" (1 & 2); "How to Apply a Passage to Our Day-to-Day Lives"; "How to Apply a Passage to Our Religious Practices" (1 & 2)