

# Bible Study Worksheet

Bible Passage/Book: \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a sample outline to help guide your personal Bible study using a three-step process; it's best to engage in each of the three main questions in order—resist the urge to skip ahead before you've spent time considering each one. The sample questions presented are only intended as prompts to help you; do not feel limited or restricted by them nor compelled to answer each one of them. Not all questions may apply or be of equal relevance or interest for every Bible passage. Don't forget to pray, to ask the Lord Himself to reveal what it is that He wants to say to you and to us.*

## **OBSERVATION > What does the Bible say?** (taking stock of what we've got)

Sample questions: Who's saying what to whom (i.e. author & audience)? What kind of writing is this (e.g. poetry, story, history, personal letter)? What tone is being used (e.g. gentle, corrective, instructive, inquisitive, authoritative)? What special words are used or repeated? Which statements are questions, and do they presuppose a particular answer? Which statements are commands? What imagery, figures of speech, metaphors, similes, or exaggeration/hyperbole are used?

## **INTERPRETATION > What does the Bible mean?** (asking and answering appropriate questions)

Sample questions: Based on my observations, what questions arise? Are any of the words or concepts confusing or unclear? Anything surprising to me? What is the author's intent, what is he trying to communicate? How does a passage/verse fit into the context of the paragraph, chapter, book, and entire Bible? How might knowledge of history or culture aid my understanding? Are there other Bible passages which address similar concepts and which might lend insight or provide clarity? Is there a key verse (or verses) which encapsulates or summarises the message of the passage? What principles underlie the content/message of this passage? What does this passage teach about God's character and perspective, the Gospel, and/or what it means to be the people of God?

## **APPLICATION > So what do I do?** (receiving the message that God is speaking to me)

Sample questions: What do I learn of God? How should I express that truth in my life? How should I respond to what I've read? What changes in my thinking, feelings, actions, or behaviour would be appropriate in light of what I've read? What things should I start doing, stop doing, or keep doing in order to live a life that honours God and reveals Jesus' grace, love, and blessing in service to others?