



CITY ON A HILL

The English Ministry of Young Nak Presbyterian Church of Toronto

2017 Servant Training

A) How to Understand the Bible



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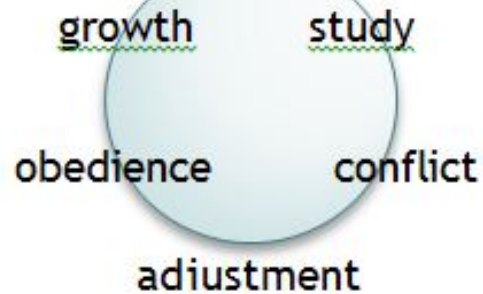
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Me and my Presuppositions

Bible

Me and my new Presuppositions





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B) Three Simple Steps:

- i. Observation
- ii. Interpretation
- iii. Application



C) Observation

- Asks the question:

 - “What does it say?”

- The key is to refrain from

 - interpreting during this step



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i. Determine the genre or literature

1. History
2. Law
3. Poetry/Wisdom
4. Prophecy
5. Gospel
6. Parable
7. Letters
8. Apocalyptic



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- ii. Try to get a sense of the mood or emotions of the passage**
- iii. Observe the major and minor characters**
- iv. Follow the flow of the story**
- v. Look for key transitions.**
- vi. Pay attention to grammar such as verbs**
- vii. Know word definitions**
- viii. Look for repetition**
- ix. Contrast and antithesis**
- x. Cause and effect**



xi) Never neglect context

1. Surrounding verses
2. Immediate chapter
3. The book/letter
4. The author's other writings
5. The testament
6. The entire Bible

xii) Use your common sense

xii) Grow in knowledge of doctrine/theology



D) Interpretation

- i. This step asks the question: What does the passage mean?
- ii. Your success in this step will depend on how well you did with observations.
- iii. Start putting the pieces together.
- iv. Start asking questions. Who, what, where, why, when, and how.
- v. Look for the main point of the passage that brings it all together.
- vi. Look for the natural meaning.
- vii. Remember the principle: Scripture interprets Scripture



BASICS OF APPLICATION & PRACTICE

A) Application

- i. This step asks the question:
“What does it mean to me?”
- ii. Based on how you did with steps 1 and 2, this will be the most rewarding.
- iii. Remember, wrong interpretation will lead to misapplication.
- iv. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you apply this to your life.
- v. Make it personal; make it personal; make it personal.



vi. Ask good application questions:

- Does this text reveal something I should believe about God?
- Does this text reveal something I should praise or thank or trust God for?
- Does this text reveal something I should pray about for myself or others?
- Does this text reveal something I should have a new attitude about?
- Does this text reveal something I should make a decision about?
- Does this text reveal something I should do for the sake of Christ, others, or myself?



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Or...

- Is there something to believe (faith/promise)
- Is there something to praise God for (worship)
- Is there something to confess (repentance)
- Is there something to ask God for (petition)
- Is there something to plan or do (obedience)