

# ESSENTIAL

## Steps in Studying God's Word

### OBSERVATION:

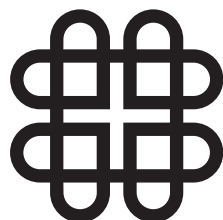
1. **Who?** Who was writing? To whom was the original message written? Who are the people involved in the scenario? (The first few lines of each book, a study Bible, or [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org) can help you with this.)
2. **What?** What is happening? What is said? Is it a command, exhortation, a rebuke, a question, an answer, a prayer, a quotation of other scripture, something else? What is the main point? What are the key words?
3. **When?** Are there time references? Are there words related to past, present, or future events?
4. **Where?** Are there locations mentioned?
5. **Why?** Are there clues about why things are being said or done?
6. **How?** Is there an explanation of how something is done?

### INTERPRETATION:

1. **The literal principle.** Is it symbolic, literally, poetry?
2. **The historical principle.** What is the meaning to the original audience?
3. **The context principle.** How do we interpret this verse by the verses surrounding it?
  - a. Start with the big picture of the text. Then zoom in on the context. Finally, focus on the details.
4. **The compatibility principle.** The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible. What other verses “sing the same song while hitting other notes?”
5. **The Jesus principle.** How does it point to Jesus?

### APPLICATION:

1. **Is there a command to obey?**
2. **Is there an example to follow?**
3. **Is there a promise to claim?**
4. **Is there a sin to avoid?**
5. **Is there a principle to follow?**



**ALBERTVILLE**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**