

Query the Text

Bible text: _____

Observation

Who?

Where?

What?

When?

Why?

How?

How much?

- Are there any repeated words or themes in the passage that highlight the author's point?
- Are there any names, places, theological terms, or historical events that I should look up?

Step 1: Interpretation

- Summarise the meaning of the passage (not its application) in a sentence or two (e.g., "In this passage the apostle Paul said ..."):

- If the passage is *narrative*, what was the theological point of the story? Find this in the: 1) repeated words and themes; 2) key theological statements made by the people in the narrative; 3) editorial comments or summaries made by the author to explain the story.

Step 2: Application

- What did the author tell *the original readers* to know or believe, to do or not to do?

- Does any of those things apply *directly* or *indirectly* to me?

- Is there in this passage ...
 - A truth to remember?

 - A promise to hold on to?

 - A command to obey?

 - An example to follow?

 - A sin to avoid?

 - A sin to repent from?