

How To Study A Section of Scripture

1. Read the entire section completely. In fact, try reading it two or three times, perhaps in different translations.
2. Identify the paragraphs, and put a label or title on each paragraph. Remember that the paragraph is the basic unit of study. So it's important to grasp the main idea or theme of each paragraph, and then state that in a word or two.
3. Evaluate each paragraph in light of the other paragraphs. Use the six clues you've already learned: things that are emphasized, things that are repeated, things that are related, things that are alike, things that are unlike, and things that are true to life.
4. Evaluate how the section as a whole relates to the rest of the book, using the same six principles.
5. Try to state the main point of the section. See if you can boil it down to one word or a short phrase that summarizes the content.
6. Keep a list of observations on the section. Better yet, record them in your Bible or notebook, using brief descriptive words.
7. Study the persons and places mentioned. See what you can learn about them that throws light on the section as a whole.
8. Keep a list of your unanswered questions and unresolved problems. Those become avenues for further investigation.
9. Ask yourself: What have I seen in this section that challenges the way I live? What practical issues does this passage address? What change do I need to consider in light of this study? What prayer do I need to pray as a result of what I've seen?
10. Share the results of your study with someone else.