

S.M.R.T. Bible Study Guide

What does the text say?

Copy down the passage, leaving space to make notes.

What does the text mean?

Write a one-sentence summary of this text's meaning to its original audience.

What does the text reveal?

Write down the timeless truths about God that are revealed in this passage. Write down at least five. Write more if you can.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What does the text tell?

Apply the text. Understand what the text demands of us, commands us to do, or tells us to do.

What truths do I need to believe? What lies do I need to stop believing?

What commands do I need to obey? What examples do I need to follow?

How does this text point to the finished work of Christ?

What Christian can I share this with? Why?

What non-Christian can I share this with? Why?

Questions to Ask the Text:

- **Read** the passage repeatedly, copy it by hand, or memorize it.
- Find all the **pronouns** used in the passage. Who is each one referring to?
- Circle every reference to **God** (including pronouns)
- Find all of the **verbs**. Who is doing the action? Is the action past, present, or future? Is the action a command?
- Underline any **repeated** words or phrases. Repetition is often used by the biblical writers to emphasize something.
- Make note of anything that a lot of **space** is given to. This will ensure you don't get distracted by minor details and really determine the main point of the text.
- Circle all **transitional** words (e.g., "for," "so that," "because," "therefore," "by") and try to explain what logical relationship they paint. (e.g., "so that" usually explained a desired outcome or goal).
- Look for any **questions** in the passage. Does the passage give an answer?
- Look for any **conditional statements** (statements beginning with "if"). Does the passage give a result? If this, then what?
- Does the passage **compare** anything? Look for words like "but," "as," and "like."
- Determine the author's **tone**. Is he encouraged or discouraged? Happy or sad?
- Are there any words you don't know? Look them up in a dictionary or Bible dictionary.