



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

Questions for good Bible study

1. **What** is the biblical context ? Before concluding anything about the text, answer the seven key questions above about the context ; because a text out of context is a pretext for all kinds of false ideas of what the Bible says. Always remember the big context which is the whole Word of God, the smaller context which is the Old or New Testament, the book context, the chapter context and the paragraph context.
2. **How** can I formulate a question about the central subject in the text ? Start with one of the following question words : *What, Who, Why, When, How, Where, Which, What if, Who ever, Why not, When would, How many, Wherever, Which one, etc.* Don't always use the same kind of question, like 'What is ?' Try to avoid questions that can be answered by a simple 'Yes' or 'No'. Ask 'thought questions'. Now find the answers in the biblical text !
3. **Which** words in the text are difficult to understand ? Remember that a word is defined by the way it is used. Dictionaries list the most common use first and less frequent use of a word second and third. **Which** one is it in the biblical text ? Use a biblical concordance to read ALL the ways the difficult word is used in other biblical texts and make your own conclusion of what God means when He uses that word. Now you really 'own' it !
4. **Why** did God inspire this text so that I would read it today ? If we only read or hear read God's Word without it affecting our lives, it is useless according to James 1:22 ! **Why** did the Lord lead me to this biblical text today ? **Why** do I need to know this ? **Why** do I need to do something about it ?
5. **When** can I share what I have been taught by the Lord ? Maturity is not so much a matter of years, but of obedience. Keep track in a notebook when and what God has said to you. Check up on yourself as 2 Cor13:5 commands us. When God's Word has changed you, then you can share it with others without being a hypocrite !