

THE WORD IN EVERY PART

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

**NOTE—These questions are intended to be helpful tools, NOT homework! Not every text needs every question answered. Let this be a practical guide to help you dive deeper, not a workbook demanding a thorough response every single time.*



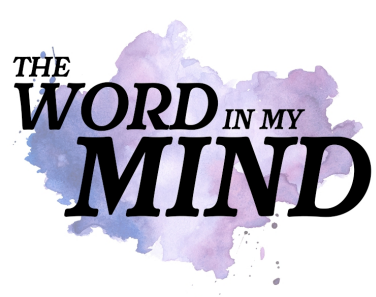
THE WORD BEFORE MY EYES

- What does the text say? Read the text thoroughly 2x.
- How do different translations render the text? Explore dynamic thought-for-thought translations (NLT) and literal word-for-word translations (NASB, LSB) to see the full picture.
- How do the similarities and differences in the various translations help me understand the meaning of the text?
- Am I already familiar with this text? Have I read this before? Am I being influenced by familiarity? Does anything in this text surprise me?



THE WORD ON MY LIPS

- Does speaking the text out loud give me an idea about the tone or intent of it? Is it a description? A command? A poem? A plea? Reading it out loud can help discern the author's voice.
- How does emphasizing different words in the text help me understand its contours? Read the verse a few times, each time emphasizing a different word.
- Can I pray this text back to the Lord? If possible, adapt the words as a prayer and speak them back to the Lord. This biblical dialogue can be tremendously helpful in understanding a text.



THE WORD IN MY MIND

- Have I asked the right starting questions in studying this text? What section of the Bible is this in? What genre am I reading? Who wrote this? When was it written? Who was the intended audience? What prompted the author to write this?
- Am I reading this in its proper context? What happened before and after this text? Where does it fit in the context of the entire book? Where does it fit in the context of all the Bible?
- Do I understand each part of the text? Divide the text into words and phrases. Where are the major divisions? How does each section fit with the others?
- Do I have a good sense of the meaning of the text? Not what it means to *me*, but what it *actually* means, what the original author intended to communicate to the original audience. I need to *interpret* the text before I *apply* the text. Can I write out a summary of the text in my own words?
- Are there cross-references that would give me a wider biblical understanding of this text? Is this verse quoted somewhere else in the Bible? Is this a prophecy that is fulfilled somewhere else? Are there other verses that interpret this text for me? Are there other verses that say something similar?
- Which tools would help me better understand this text? Is there a word or concept I need a dictionary or word study for? A location I need to see in an atlas or on a map? A commentary that would give me insight into a theological question? All these tools are useful, but they should be my *last* step, not first step. I need to work at understanding the text *myself* before I go to the words of others.
- Have I prayed and asked the Spirit to help me understand the text?



THE WORD IN MY HEART

- What truth(s) is this text declaring? Is there a truth about God? About man? About the world? About salvation?
- Does this text teach me something about God's character?
- Where is the path that leads to Jesus? How does this text connect to the greater story of redemption?
- Have I given sufficient time in meditating on this text? Have I turned it over again and again in my mind? Have I come back to it in thought or conversation or prayer? Have I chewed deeply on the truths it communicates?
- Is this a text I need to memorize? Would hiding it in my heart help me fight temptation or trust God more deeply?



THE WORD IN MY SOUL

- In what ways does this text lead me to deeper devotion to the Lord? Does the truth it communicates encourage me? Does it lead my soul to glory in Christ? Does it help me better understand the character of God? Does it help me trust and abide more deeply?
- How does this text challenge me personally? Does it expose any sin in me? Does it confront my pride? Does it challenge my self-sufficiency? Can it strengthen a weak place in my faith?



THE WORD IN MY HANDS

- What can I practically do to obey this text right now? Is there a specific or implied command? Is there a sin I need to repent of? Is there an attitude I can adopt? Is there a circumstance I can respond to differently now? How can I pray or worship with joy and thanksgiving in light of this text?
- How should this text affect my habits? Will it lead me to more practical consistency? In what ways could this text be used to shape my spiritual disciplines?



THE WORD FOR MY FEET

- How can this text be used in someone else's life? Is there someone I can encourage with these words? Is someone in my circle going through something that this text would speak powerfully to? Carefully, is there someone that needs to be challenged by these words?
- Is this a text I can use to communicate the Gospel to someone? How could this text be framed evangelistically? How can I proclaim salvation in Christ using this verse?