

how to study the bible



This Observation is the *O* of S.O.A.P.

Reading Scripture within the context in which it was written helps us correctly interpret the meaning. Using the proper tools to find the intended meaning—without inserting our message into a passage—lets God’s message influence our lives.

Two Instructors Are _____ And _____.

Two Pains Are _____ And _____.

Rightly understanding the context and message of Scripture allows us to stand firm in our faith on a foundation of truth and to better understand God’s message and purposes.

“The primary tool in helping accurately interpret the Bible is an understanding of context. To understand the meaning of a passage it is important to know the basic background of what you are reading. Just as we don’t start a novel in the middle of a chapter, we shouldn’t treat the Bible that way. Observation includes learning the historical background of the text, who the author is, and to whom the author is writing. There are additional important factors when properly evaluating a passage: the cultural context, the genre of writing, and literal and figurative writing styles.

“As the Spirit highlights that one single thought, observe carefully what the verse says. Think about to whom the passage was originally addressed and why it was written. Ponder its meaning, its tone, its purpose. Take several moments to meditate on it, to let its message soak clear through to your heart.

Wayne Cordeiro, *The Divine Mentor*

observation



