

Connection Groups Summer Elective – How to Study the Bible

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and thus it deserves our effort and work to accurately understand.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” -2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

Pray for Illumination from the Holy Spirit

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” - John 16:13 (ESV)

A Process: Observation → Interpretation → Correlation → Application

What was God trying to say to the original audience? (Observation and Interpretation)

Observation

To study the Bible well is like being a good detective. We have to, as best we can set aside our assumptions, and study what God has revealed. It is also a back and forth process.

A good goal is to slow down and see what is truly there. That is what original language study does for me.

Observe the text of Mark 12:28-34:



Tools for Study:

- A good Study Bible
- A Bible Atlas
- Introduction to the Old Testament & Introduction to the New Testament
- A word study tool (Concordance)

Observe the Text:

Mark 12:28–34 (ESV)

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Who?

- is involved?
- wrote this?
- were they writing to?

What?

- is happening?
- words are repeated?
- is the structure?
- is being discussed?
- type of literature is this? (poem, proverb, law, letter, story, prophecy)
- was happening before this?
- was happening after this?
- terms aren’t clear?
- is Jesus quoting?

Where?

When?

- Is it written in the past, present, or future tense?
- When did the story take place?
 - In the life of Jesus?
 - In the Gospel of Mark?
 - In history?

How is this described? (1st person, 2nd, person, 3rd person)

Why was this written?