

Expository Bible Study

STEP 2. DEFINITION OF WORDS:

Definitions of words that you do not know should be recorded. Some words are not understood today and have taken a different meaning. Check your Reference Bible's marginal notes and an English dictionary, such as Webster's New World Dictionary, for the meanings. If there is any doubt in your mind that you do not fully understand the meaning of the word, look it up!

Another way to determine the meaning is to look the word up in Vines Expository Dictionary of the New Strong's Bible Concordance.

STEP 3. INFORMATION ON NAMES, CITIES, AND PLACES:

Information on names, cities and places is important in understanding the Bible passage. Use your Bible helps such as your Bible dictionary and also maps to locate the places mentioned and record what you find.

Most reference Bibles have good maps in the back pages. It might be good to purchase a good Bible atlas.

Other Examples:

Names: Jacob: Means, "supplanter"

Joshua: Means, "salvation"

Place: "Tarsus"; "Caesarea" Galilee: Northern area of Palestine, west of the Sea of Galilee.

STEP 4. ACTION AND RESULT!

As you read and study the passage, look for "Actions" and "Results."

Note that the natural sequence of events was first an "Action" and then a response or a "result". Looking for the "action and result" in a passage of Scripture helps you determine what happened.

If you have trouble finding the Action and Result in a verse look for verbs in the verses.

Example: II Thessalonians 3:1-5

STEP 5. PRINCIPLES NOTED:

After you find the ACTION and the RESULT of a passage you next seek to find the principles that are in the verses.

A principle is a "fundamental truth, law, doctrine, or motivating force upon which others are based."

Principles are truths and remain the same in both the Old and New Testaments. Traditions of mankind change, as does customs, cultures, environments, governments and historical situations. A truth does not change. The application of a truth or principle may be different at one time in history than at another, but the principle does not change.