
BIBLE STUDY METHODS

Introduction to the Bible
Pastor Bucey

BASIC PRACTICES

- Scripture memorization
- Layered/repetitive reading
- Sentence diagramming

THREE SIMPLE STEPS IN INTERPRETATION

- Three Kinds of Questions
 - Observation
 - Elucidation
 - Application
- Three Steps for 1 Samuel 22:1–2
 - Pray and ask the Lord to be present and to illumine the study.
 - Look at surrounding parts of the book.
 - Read the passage.
 - Consider some questions.
- Discourse Analysis
 - A *discourse* is a connected piece of text of any size. But usually the word *discourse* designates a larger-sized text, containing more than one clause. Clauses fit together into sentences and paragraphs, and paragraphs into larger sections and whole books.¹
 - *Discourse analysis* studies how pieces of text fit together. The first form of discourse analysis, which focuses on the order of the text, studies the flow of text from one idea to another and how one idea supports or qualifies another. This focus is called *rhetorical analysis*.
 - The support between pieces of text can take the form of a:
 - causal relation (cause and effect, purpose, unexpected effect)
 - logical relation (“hence,” “or”)
 - topical relation (repetition or contrast or filling in detail)
 - temporal relation (“after,” “before,” circumstantial information).²

¹ Vern S. Poythress, *Reading the Word of God in the Presence of God: A Handbook for Biblical Interpretation* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2016), 197.

² *Ibid.*, 198.