

First Baptist Maddoxtown
“Interpreting the Bible:”

Context: is the most important aspect of Bible study; the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.

Read the bible with these three terms in mind:

“Four Basic Principles for Bible Study”

Step 1:	Observation: What exactly does the passage say?	Careful (<i>exact details, thorough, precise</i>) Systematic (<i>orderly such as: tree, limb, branch, twig, leaves</i>) Persistent (<i>extended time, determined continuing</i>)
Step 2-	Interpretation: What does the passage literally mean?	The language gap (<i>original languages</i>) The cultural gap (<i>each part of the Bible in its own time/era</i>) The geographical gap (<i>Bible event locations</i>) The historical gap (<i>historical background</i>)
Step 3	Application: How does this truth relate to me?	Are there examples to follow? Are there commands to obey? Are there errors to avoid? Are there sins to forsake? Are there promises to claim? Are there new thoughts about God? Are there principles to live by?
Step 4	Meditation: Focusing the mind on one subject	Involving Reason (<i>cause, motive, aim, purpose, think logically</i>) Imagination (<i>mind's eye, head, thoughts</i>) And Emotions

Excerpts taken from **“Rediscovering Expository Preaching “**
 by Dr. John F. MacArthur

“Tips for studying the Bible”

Word	Meaning	Biblical Reference
Indicative	A statement of fact - what's true.	John 10:30
Imperative	A command- attempts to control what will be.	2 Timothy 2:22
Indicative/Imperative (Within a particular text).	“Indicative/Imperative” relationship can be expressed like this: “God has done this; therefore, you should do that.”	1 Corinthians 5:6-7⁶
Interrogative	A question asked by anyone. God's questions are always rhetorical, meaning He is not looking for an answer; He is omniscient, and His questions inform/instruct us with the intent to lead us to repentance.	Job 3:11
Conditional Statements	Usually a statement which supplies and “If...then” scenario.	2 Chronicles 7:14

Structural Diagram Connectives

“Reveals the relationship between the ideas it links together.”

- **Comparison Connectives** (shows ideas to be alike, or similar): Like, As, Also, Too, And
- **Contrast Connectives** (items are unlike or opposites): But, Nevertheless, Even Though, Much More, Yet, Although, More Than
- **Conditional Statements** (a particular condition that leads to a predictable result): If, Then
- **Correlative Structure** (shows items related to each other reciprocally): “Both. And,” “As. So Also,” “So As,” “For As”
- **Connectives of Reason** (shows one item is the reason behind another): Because, Therefore, For This Reason, For, Since
- **Purpose Statements** (indicates result): That, So That, In Order That
- **Sequence or Time Connectives** (notes the order of events): And, Now, Until, When, After, Before, Since, While, Then
- **Geographical Connector** (indicates location): “Where”