

# Bible Study Methods

an invitation to discovery



## SURVEY THE BIG PICTURE

Survey the big picture by analyzing the . . .

- Historical Context
- Literary Context
- Redemptive Context

### STEPS TO SURVEY

- Consult commentaries to establish the author, audience and date
- Create a book summary
- Consider how your passage fits into God's plan to create a community of redeemed people for his glory through Jesus Christ



## EXPLORE THE PASSAGE

Carefully explore the biblical text by applying the interpretive approach that best fits the genre of the passage.

*(Different genres require different interpretive steps.)*

### STEPS TO EXPLORE

The following steps are helpful when studying an epistle:

- Create a structural layout
- Read your passage several times making careful observations
- Ask questions for understanding
- Consider interpretive options
- Compare several translations
- Study the meaning of key words
- Consult commentaries



## DISCOVER THE BIG IDEA

Summarize the results of your interpretive journey.

### STEPS TO DISCOVER

- Create a textual outline of your passage
- Summarize the big idea of your passage in a single sentence (the author's big idea)



## RESPOND TO GOD

Respond to God through his Word.

### STEPS TO RESPOND

- Determine how the passage applies today by considering how it fits into God's story
- Consider how the passage exposes your fallen condition
- Consider how the passage points you to Christ and his redemptive work
- Determine personal response(s)

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