# **Biblical Interpretation and Communication**

**TEXTUAL** MESSAGE Theological Bridge

**THEOLOGICAL** MESSAGE

Audience Bridge

CONTEXTUALIZED MESSAGE

What did God say?

**Survey the Big Picture** 

**Historical Context** Literary Context Redemptive Context

**Explore the Passage** 

Identify the Genre Analyze the Structure Make Observations **Compare Translations Consult Commentaries** Outline the Passage

Author's Big Idea (ABI)



#### What is God saying?

#### **Identify Discontinuities**

Culture People Redemptive History

#### **Identify Continuities**

Triune God People Redemption

Fallen Condition(s) Redemptive Solution(s)

Theological Big Idea (TBI)



#### How will I say what God is saying?

#### **Consider Personal Application**

How do I share in the fallen condition(s)? How does this passage point me to Christ?

#### **Analyze your Audience**

Fallen Condition(s) Redemptive Solution(s) Hearts Longings False Beliefs

#### **Determine Message Objectives**

#### **Develop Message Big Idea (MBI)** and Outline

**F** aithful to the Scriptures

**0** bvious from the passage

R elated to fallen condition

C onnected to Christ

**E** ngaging the heart and the mind



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#### What is God saying?

#### **Identify Discontinuities**

Culture People Redemptive History

Triune God

Fallen Condition(s)

Theological Big Idea (TBI)

## **Identify Continuities**

People Redemption

Redemptive Solution(s)



#### How will I say what God is saying?

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# **Small Group Lesson Template (Narrative)**

Determine the learning objectives

the fallen condition[s] I want them to identify with)

good news" in the passage)

## Launch

Connect the study to where

#### **ELEMENTS**

Your Bible Study will be most effective when it is aligned with God's redemptive purposes. God intends to restore aspects of our brokenness to spiritual wholeness," so that we might live for God and enjoy His glory (Bryan Chapell).

Ask a question that will cultivate interest in your study by raising a problem or issue that your passage addresses. (At this stage, your link to the "fallen condition" your passage addresses may only be implicit.)

#### Explore

Lead them to investigate the Word

#### **Survey the Big Picture**

Give them a brief overview of the context they need in order to understand your passage.

#### **Explore the passage**

**Ask** exploratory questions to help them discover what God has communicated in your passage. In a narrative this will involve helping them understand how the story unfolds. Your questions will focus on the setting, characters, and plot. You will probably find it helpful to break your passage into smaller sections and then ask questions about each individual section.

#### **Summarize the Theological Message**

In order to apply your passage properly you need to help them understand how it fits into God's story. Ask a couple questions to help them grasp the theological message in the passage in context of the larger story of Scripture (i.e., continuities regarding the triune God, people, redemption).

## Apply

#### **ELEMENTS**

#### **Expose the Fallen Condition**

Ask a couple of questions that help them identify with the "fallen condition" this passage exposes. The "fallen condition" is some aspect of our brokenness or rebellion that requires the redemptive work of Christ. Help them consider the "sin beneath the sin.

#### **Point them to Christ**

Ask a couple of questions that point them to Christ and the gospel. What's the "good news" for them in this passage? What aspect of Christ's redemptive work do they need to embrace in order to live for God and enjoy His glory?

**Consider Life Application Ask** a couple of questions that help them envision what it would look like practically to live out this passage (both personally and corporately)

# **Small Group Lesson Template (Narrative)**

## Launch

Connect the study to where they live

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Lead them to investigate the Word

#### **Survey the Big Picture**

Give them a brief overview of the context they need in order to understand

#### **Explore the passage**

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#### **Consider Life Application**

Ask a couple of questions that help them envision what it would look like practically to live out this passage (both personally and corporately).

# the fallen condition[s] I want them to identify with) What's the solution? (i.e., What's the big idea? What's the problem? What's our response?

Determine the learning objectives