**Explore**

What did God say?

**The Big Picture**
- historical/cultural context
- literary context
- redemptive context

**The Passage**
- make observations
- analyze the structure
- study key words
- compare translations
- consult commentaries
- outline the passage

**Author’s Big Idea (ABI)**

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**Connect**

How do I cross the theological and cultural bridge to our world?

**Identify Discontinuities**
- culture
- people
- redemptive history

**Identify Continuities**
- triune God
- people
- redemption
- ethics
  - fallen conditions
  - redemptive solutions

**Theological Big Idea (TBI)**

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**Apply**

How do I respond to what God is saying?

**Fallen Condition**
- How does this passage expose my/our fallen condition?

**Redemptive Solution**
- How does this passage point me/us to the grace that God provides?

**Personal/Corporate Response**
- How does God want me/us to respond to him from this passage?
### Observation Categories
- key words/phrases
- connectives
- contrasts
- comparisons
- repetition
- lists
- advice
- commands
- warnings
- promises
- reasons
- results
- cause/effect
- progression of ideas
- illustrations
- images
- metaphors
- questions
- grammar
- tone
- cultural discontinuities
- other Scripture (quote/allusion)
- pivot point
- literary structure


### ECA Elements: Guardrails

#### Author's Big Idea (ABI): What was the author saying to the original audience?
- 3rd person/past tense
- preserves language of the passage
- addresses all the most important ideas of the passage

#### Theological Big Idea (TBI): What is God saying in this passage?
- 3rd person/present tense--God is subject of sentence
- timeless (omits elements that are specific to context)
- addresses all the most important ideas of the passage

#### Fallen Condition (FC): What does this passage reveal about human nature that requires the grace of God?
- may be first or third person
- may focus on a more specific aspect of the passage?
- “3am-compliant”

#### Redemptive Solution (RS): What does the passage reveal about the God who redeems?
- God is subject of sentence
- provides needed grace (not just expectation) in light of FC
- present in passage or in immediate vicinity
- “3am-compliant”

#### Response/Application: How will I/we respond to the realities I’ve discovered in the passage?
- first person (I or we), present or future tense
- flows from FC/RS, specific and actionable (dance steps)

### Things to Consider
- Where is the music of the gospel in this passage? Where do I see dance steps?
- If a NT passage, where do I see the tension of “now” and “not yet”?
- If this were the only portion of Scripture I had, what would I learn about God, humanity, and the story of redemption?
- As I apply the passage, what is there for me to do, be, see, or set as a goal?
- As I apply the passage, what might I consider for my own life as well as for communities of which I’m a part?
- How might application of this passage differ for those to whom I minister?