

Bible Study Tool Kit



Author's Purpose Tool

The biggest question we can ask of a passage is: why did the author write this?



Repetition Tool

Sometimes the author will say something more than once so we don't miss it. What's so important here that they want us to see



Bible Timeline Tool

Where does this passage fit on the Bible timeline? Where am I on that timeline? How should I read this passage in light of things that have happened in between?



So What? Tool

What difference does this make to my life? How will it work out in the particular situation I am facing at present?



Context Tool

Words come within sentences, sentences in paragraphs, paragraphs in chapters, etc. Keep it all in context. What came before, what comes after?



Structure Tool

How has the author broken his material into sections? How do these sections fit together? Remember: do it yourself.



Copycat Tool

Is the author holding up one of the characters as someone we should imitate or someone whose likeness we should avoid?



Tone & Feel Tool

As we come to the bible, we should not only pay attention to the point being made but how it is being made – ie, what feelings does this passage evoke?



Linking Words Tool

What's the "therefore" there for? And other words like "because"; "for"; "so that" etc.



Translations Tool

Check passages in other translations (NIV, ESV, NLT, The Message). How does this affect the passage?



Quotation/Allusion Tool

When the author quotes or alludes to another part of the bible, we should look up the passage and see the original context. What connections are they making?



Vocabulary Tool

Don't just assume you know the meaning of a word, especially one that is used a lot in the bible. Mostly you can find what words mean by looking them up in a dictionary.



Study 2:

Mark 1:16 – 2:12

Study Prep

PRAY – Start by praying to ask for God’s help as He speaks to you through this bible passage

READ – Read through the passage slowly and again a second time

NOTE – Mark down anything that struck or confused you to bring questions or remarks along to the study.

Applying the Tools:

1. **Structure Tool** – Break the text up into smaller sections and identify what is going on in each section using the table below.

| Section | What’s Going on? | What do we learn about King Jesus? | What do we learn about what his Kingdom is like? |
|---------|------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1:16-20 | | | |
| 1:21-28 | | | |
| 1:29-34 | | | |
| 1:35-39 | | | |
| 1:40-45 | | | |
| 2:1-12 | | | |

2. **Tone and Feel Tool** – How do you feel about King Jesus and His Kingdom from reading through this passage?



Study 4:

Mark 4:35 – 5:43

Study Prep

PRAY – Start by praying to ask for God’s help as He speaks to you through this bible passage

READ – Read through the passage slowly and again a second time

NOTE – Mark down anything that struck or confused you to bring questions or remarks along to the study.

Applying the Tools:

1. **Structure Tool** – There are four separate stories in this passage but what links are there between the different stories?
2. **Tone and Feel Tool** – In the four episodes Jesus is displaying his awesome power.
 - How do the details of Mark’s account capture the sense of desperation and human powerlessness in each situation?
 - How do the details of Mark’s account paint a picture of the breath taking power and compassion of Jesus in each situation?
3. **Vocabulary Tool** – In each episode people respond in “fear”; however, we need be sensitive to the way Mark is using the word. People are afraid of different things and in different ways. (**Translation Tool** – Different translations might have “afraid” or “terrified”). Try to work out if each “fear” in each case is appropriate or not.



Study 5:

Mark 6:31-52

Study Prep

PRAY – Start by praying to ask for God’s help as He speaks to you through this bible passage

READ – Read through the passage slowly and again a second time

NOTE – Mark down anything that struck or confused you to bring questions or remarks along to the study.

Applying the Tools:

1. **Repetition Tool** – Mark wants to set the scene in these opening verses and to make sure we don’t miss it, he has used repetition. What is the repetition here? (**Translation Tool** – It is more obvious in a literal translation like ESV).
2. **Quotation / Allusion Tool** – There are a number of allusions in this passage which hark back to a previous time in Israel’s history, that is, the great Old Testament story in Exodus. See how many you can get.
3. What is the big story of Exodus? What is Mark saying about Jesus by alluding to the Exodus story so many times?



Study 6:

Mark 8:11-30

Study Prep

PRAY – Start by praying to ask for God’s help as He speaks to you through this bible passage

READ – Read through the passage slowly and again a second time

NOTE – Mark down anything that struck or confused you to bring questions or remarks along to the study.

Applying the Tools:

1. **Context Tool** – Read 8:14-21 in the context of 6:30-52 and 8:1-10. Why is what the disciples talking about so ridiculous?
2. **Tone and Feel Tool** – Jesus asks the disciples 8 questions in this passage. What emotions come through about how Jesus is feeling about his disciples by the end of v 21? Contrast that with at the end of v 29.
3. **Structure Tool** - One of Mark’s favourite techniques as a writer is to ‘sandwich together’ two different episodes, inviting us to compare them. The healing of the blind man miracle (8:22-26) is the filling of the sandwich. How does it relate to the pieces of bread on either side?
4. **Copycat Tool** – Who should we be like in this passage and who should we avoid being like?

