

The Three Steps of Bible Study:

1. Observation:

In this step we discover *What the Scripture SAYS*. This requires more than a casual reading of the passage. *The Truths of Scripture* are sometimes like *shells on a seashore* that can be easily seen and collected. But more often, they are like *precious gems* hidden beneath the surface, requiring careful excavation and a determined excavator. The extra effort yields valuable lessons and precious truths. *We will learn how to sift through the words of a passage in order to discover what the writer is saying.*

2. Interpretation:

Here, we will discover *What the Scripture MEANS*. It has been said, *"There is only one interpretation but many applications."* Our task will be to discover that *one* interpretation, and our primary tool will be an inquisitive mind asking relevant questions. *It is imperative that we discover the correct interpretation, for if our interpretation is in error, so too will be our applications.*

3. Application:

Finally we will discover *What the Scripture MEANS TO US*. The Bible was not given to fulfill our curiosity, but to *transform* lives! God is in the business of changing lives, and He does it primarily through the ministry of His Spirit and His Word, transforming hearts, minds and wills, and conforming lives to the Living Word, Jesus Christ! *We will learn how to apply the Scripture in practical ways to our lives.*