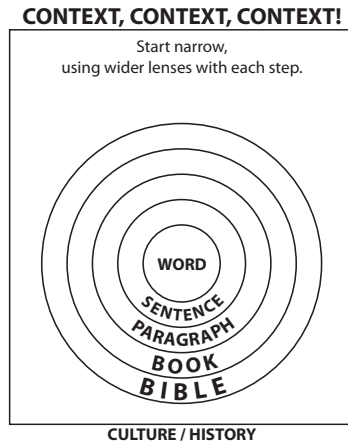


2. Begin finding the answer. Start with the following sequence:

- a. Word—Is there a word or words that I need to define? Look for the definition in the verse itself, a concordance, or dictionary. **DO NOT CROSS-REFERENCE YET.**
- b. Sentence—Does the sentence or subject matter shed light on my question? Do I learn anything from the sentence I ask my question from? **DO NOT CROSS-REFERENCE YET.**
- c. Paragraph—Keep it in context: that which goes before and that which follows. Are there things mentioned in the paragraph that help me answer my question? Again, **DO NOT CROSS-REFERENCE YET.**
- d. Book—Now you may cross-reference. Use comparison. Is this word or idea mentioned anywhere else in the book? What does it say about it? Does it help answer my question?
- e. Bible—Cross-reference and use comparison. Is that word or idea mentioned anywhere else in the Bible? What does it say about it? Does it help answer my question?
 - i. Good study Bible
 - ii. Concordance
 - iii. Bible dictionary
 - iv. Bible atlas
 - v. Bible commentary
- f. Historical setting—Understand the culture and use consultation. Use books such as those listed below to help answer questions at this point.



3. Write out the answer to your question based on your investigation. Several days, weeks, or even years may pass before you look at this material again. If you don't summarize your findings, then your notes will likely make no sense to you down the road.

Application – What does it mean to me?

(Look at yourself) What am I going to do about it?

“The Word of God does not bear fruit when it is understood, but when applied.”

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”
Matthew 7:24-27

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:22-25

The Art of Application

Relate the text to your experience

Is there...

1. an example to follow?
2. a sin to avoid?
3. a promise to claim?
4. a prayer to repeat?
5. a command to obey?
6. a condition to meet?
7. a verse to memorize?
8. an error to mark?
9. a challenge to face?

Make your application specific and measurable.

Examples

Correct way: *Work on my servanthood by doing my roommate's laundry this week.*
Incorrect way: *Be a better Christian this week.*