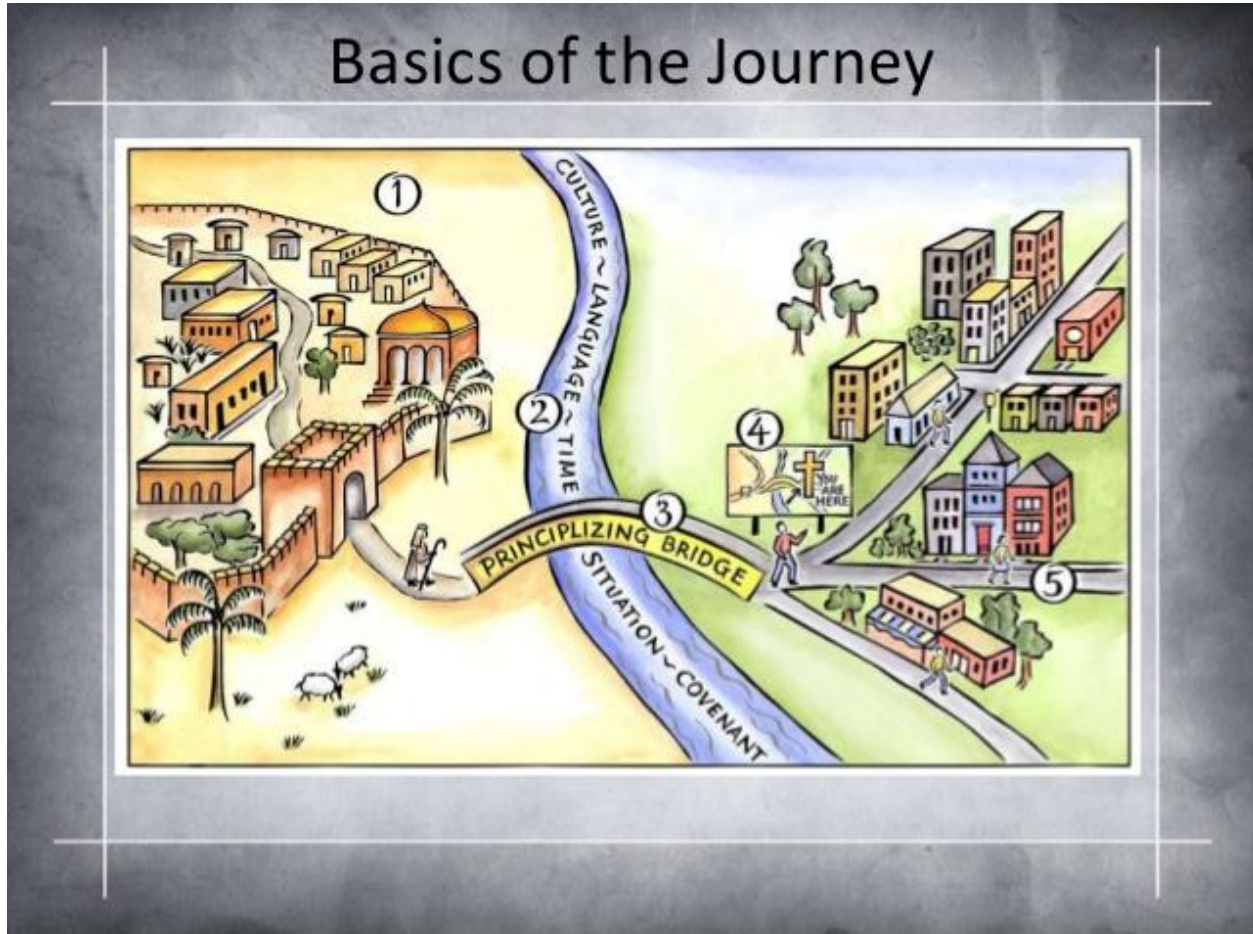


How to Study the Bible - Handout

Steps in Biblical Interpretation



From *Grasping God's Word* by Duvall and Hays

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The All Important Circles of Context



Hermeneutical Principles:

1. Not all passages of Scripture are equally clear. 2 Peter 3:16
2. The Bible should be interpreted according to its literal sense. The natural meaning of a passage is to be interpreted according to the normal rules of grammar, speech (including figures of speech), syntax and grammatical-historical context.
3. The Analogy of Faith: The teaching of the whole Bible determines specific interpretations. (Biblical Road Map).
4. Analogy of the Scriptures: We should interpret unclear, difficult or ambiguous passages of Scripture by comparison with clear and unambiguous passages that refer to the same teaching or event.
5. Didactic (explicit) interprets narrative (both explicit and implicit).
6. Theology is done at the concept level not the word level.
7. Approach the Bible believing what it says, even before you understand it.
8. Christ is the principal end of the whole of Scripture. Luke 24:27
9. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to illumine our hearts to enable us to believe and understand Scripture. Ephesians 1:17-18, Psalm 119:18,27, Luke 24:45
10. Our study should be done with a spirit of humility desiring to love God and neighbor more, recognizing that knowledge without love puffs up.
11. Our study should lead us to worship.