

START WITH PRAYER

EPISTLES

STEP 1 TEXT

What does the passage say?

Look at the **words and phrases** for any:

- Repeated words or themes
- Transition words (ie. but, therefore, for)
- Images / metaphors
- A truth, a command, a warning, a question
- Verbs—note past, present, and future.

Who is doing this action?

- Surprises !
- **Descriptions of God: the Father, Son, and Spirit**
- Big Bible Words
- Theme words from the book

Looking at the **whole passage...**

- What kind of writing is this?
- Who is writing to whom?
- Are there any clues why the author is writing this letter?
- What tone or feeling is the author trying to communicate?
- Divide the passage into its natural sections, one for each major thought.
- Create a heading or picture for each section and a one sentence summary in your own words.
- Key verses
- What does the structure reveal?
- What is the authors flow of thought?

STEP 2

TRAVELING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

What does the passage mean?

- Read the passage that has come immediately before and that follows straight after. How does this impact how we understand your passage?
- Read any references provided from the rest of scripture to help understand your passage.

So what's the main idea of the passage?

STOP TO PRAY

STEP 3

THINKING THROUGH THE GOSPEL

What aspect of the gospel, that is, who Christ is and what He has done for us and what this means for our lives, is revealed in the passage?

STEP 4 TODAY

What does this mean for me?

FINISH IN PRAYER

