

4 PACKAGE THE STUDY



decide the study sections

- 4.1 write out clearly the Theme Sentence
- 4.2 divide the passage into sections and give a title to each: how do these build together to teach the Theme Sentence? (cf 1.6)



design group questions

- 4.3 for each section, work out two or three questions of each type:
 - what does it say?
 - what does it mean?
 - how does it apply?
- 4.4 check the Theme Sentence: are you still sure this is the Big Idea?
- 4.5 think up a Launching Question (usually from the applications)
- 4.6 work out timings (anticipate difficult sections and red herrings)



pray

- 4.7 pray about the content of the Theme Sentence and how it applies
- 4.8 pray for the group study: for people to understand the Theme Sentence and how it applies



Understanding and Communicating the Bible

1 UNDERSTAND THE PASSAGE



overview the book

- 1.1 are we told why the book was written?
- 1.2 what do we know about author/recipients?
- 1.3 what are the main themes or repeated words/phrases?
- 1.4 how does the book divide up into sections?



overview the passage (part one)

- 1.5 read through the passage and mark with ! / ? / * / etc
- 1.6 divide the passage into sections and give a title to each



take the passage apart

- 1.7 who? (who are the characters? what is said about them?)
- 1.8 what? (what is the main action? was it expected? what results?)
- 1.9 when? (chronology here? what immediately preceded/follows?)
- 1.10 where? (what is geography here? is it significant?)
- 1.11 how? (what are the steps in the passage [eg scenes of story]?)
- 1.12 why? (is there a stated or implied reason why it all happens?)
- 1.13 what words are unfamiliar, or ideas hard to understand?
(eg any background knowledge of words/customs needed?)
- 1.14 is this passage quoted elsewhere / does it quote from elsewhere?
- 1.15 is there any surprise here? anything I'd have put differently?
- 1.16 are there key words, or ideas repeated?



overview the passage (part two)

- 1.17 how does the passage link together?
look for joining words (*and, but, although, therefore ...*)
look for explaining words (*because, therefore, since, so that ...*)
- 1.18 what is the flow of the passage? does it build to a climax?
(look at the middle, and look at the end)
- 1.19 what seems to be the main idea? is there any key statement?
- 1.20 why is this written? why written here? why written this way?

2 DECIDE THE THEME SENTENCE



put the passage into context

- 2.1 where does this passage come on the Bible's time line?
are there promises to be fulfilled, or promises now fulfilled?
- 2.2 does the author tell us why he wrote this book? (cf 1.1)
- 2.3 does the author tell us why he wrote this passage?
- 2.4 what comes immediately before and after this passage?
- 2.5 what ideas is the author repeating? (*not the same question as 1.16*)
- 2.6 how does the author apply this? (cf 3.2)



identify the 'big idea'

- 2.7 what are all the main truths that the passage raises?
- 2.8 what is the BIG IDEA here? and what are supporting truths?
- 2.9 how does the author establish that this is the BIG IDEA?



write out the theme sentence

- 2.10 re-word the BIG IDEA into as simple/short a sentence as possible

3 APPLY THE PASSAGE



identify the type of passage

- 3.1 is this a passage with explicit commands for faith and obedience?
or is this a passage revealing God's character and purposes?
- 3.2 where and how does the author apply this passage? (cf 2.6)



apply the theme sentence

- 3.3 what should people think or do because of the Theme Sentence?

	what to think	what to do	now/in 10 yrs
me as an individual			
our group / church			
the world			