

How To Read the Bible

1. Come to know the oneness of the Bible, the Bible as a whole.
2. Study the themes of the Bible. Themes give practical, usable clues to the oneness of the Bible, and their recurrence throughout both Testaments provides ties for the various parts (ex. words of “density”). Some themes: *exodus, exile, deliverance, calling, covenant, wisdom, leadership, worship, life in the world, hope.*
3. Approach to the Bible as a Hebrew and not a Greek or Roman. (experience, abstract thought, theoretical precept)
4. Read from more than one translation. (*handout*, “The Basic Tool,” G. Fee)
5. Accept the challenge of interpretation
 - exegesis vs. eisegesis*
 - text and context
 - CT/MT:CN/MN)
6. Build a library of helpful tools.
 - Bible handbook
 - Bible dictionary
 - Commentaries
 - Understanding the OT*
 - Understanding the NT*
 - Distinguishing types of literature in the Bible
7. Remember these are “insider” documents.
8. Discern the Bible to *be as much a set of questions posed to the church as a set of answers.*
9. Remember the Bible is not a set of conclusions but a set of presuppositions; the Bible isn’t out to prove anything. Instead, it *asserts, confirms, confesses and testifies.*
10. The Bible not as an object to be studied but as a partner with whom we may dialog...
11. The Bible as window or lens...

