

ABOUT THE BOOK

1. Who is the author of the book? What was their intended purpose in writing?
2. When and where was the book written?
3. What is the setting in which the book was written? What is the background or cultural context behind the book?
4. Who is the intended audience or recipient of the book?
5. What are the main issues or events behind the book? What are the main issues or themes being addressed?
6. What did God want the original audience to learn, feel, or do?
7. How does the book fit into the overall revelation of Scripture?

ABOUT THE PASSAGE

1. What is the setting of the passage? When do the events take place? What is happening? What is the background or cultural context behind these events or ideas?
2. Are there any similarities regarding the setting to our world? How are they like us today? How are they different? How is this relevant to us in our world today? What would my thoughts and feelings been in similar situations and how would have I responded in that situation?
3. What are the surrounding verses? How does this passage fit into the overall context of the book? How does this passage fit into the overall revelation of Scripture? Does any other extra-biblical writings address the issues, ideas, or events?
4. Is there conflict or tension in the passage? Who or what does it involve? What attitudes, actions, values, beliefs, and ideas are being addressed?
5. Who are the major figures or people groups in the text?
6. What is revealed about God (in attributes or characteristics) and how does this connect to the life of Jesus?
7. What are the timeless/cross-cultural principles or truths being addressed? Where do these truths apply to my life (home, work, school, church, relationships, etc.)? What types of sins does this reveal and address in my life? What ideas and principles can I implement in my life? What would be my first action step?

APPLICATION THOUGHTS

- Who or what are your external idols? Who or what is your lord that rules over your life? Who or what is your judge you are seeking approval from? Who or what do you give your "first fruits" to? Who or what do you plan and/or pray for?
- What are your internal idols? What are false beliefs that you hold about God? Which Scripture do you deeply doubt or disbelieve? Who or what do you love, treasure, or long for the most?
- Who or what mediates between you and God? Who or what, other than Jesus, do you use to get closer to God? Who or what, if taken from your life, would cause you to not walk as faithfully with God?
- Where is your functional heaven? When daydreaming about escaping life, what does your functional heaven look like and how is it different from the real heaven? On earth, where do you run to for safety, comfort, or as a hiding place? Who or what is your functional savior? What is your picture of hell in this life? Who or what do you use to save you from it? What do you use to self-medicate or relieve discomfort?
- What good thing has become a god thing? Which idol, when stewarded correctly, is a means of worship but has become objects of worship? What means of worship has become an object of worship? What idols are you selling to others? What self-medication are you selling to others?