**Steps in Proper Bible Reading**

Steps in reading Scripture properly include observation, looking at how the passage fits with what is around it, the books before and after it, how it fits in the Bible, looking for Christ in it, and thinking through the Gospel before drawing applications.

**Step 1**

***Observation***

It is really investigative journalism. We are digging, trying to answer who, what, where, when and why. We are looking for structure and literary devices and anything we can observe. A big question we want to keep in the forefront of our thought is What would the original readers have understood?

**Step 2**

***Travel through the Scripture***

This is figuring out where it fits? What is before this passage, what is after this passage? Where does it fit In the Bible as a whole and within the Redemptive story? Answering questions like what the Author is saying and what is the big Idea?

**Step 3**

***Interpretation***

This is discovering what the passage meant to the original readers and what it means to us today.

***Step 4***

***Thinking through the Gospel.***

This is keeping Christ Central. Asking what is this telling us about Christ? About our need for him?

**Step 5**

***Application***

How can this passage be lived out today?