



It's All About Him!

Transformational Bible Study Method

Book of the Bible

STEP 1—INTENT

What did the author intend for the original audience to know? Look at the full context and avoid imposing a 21st century world-view or assumptions into the ancient text.



TITLE/MEANING: Note the title's meaning if known.

AUTHOR: Some of the Bible's authors are unknown. Is there any important information we need to know about the author that helps us better understand their message?

DATE/PERIOD OF HISTORY: The date of some books is uncertain. Usually we can determine the period of history, which help us understand the historical setting, the audience's specific needs, their unique culture, and the literary genre.

AUDIENCE: Who was the author's original audience? Their needs drove the message's focus. (We are not the original audience.) All four Gospel authors wrote about the life of Christ, but they wrote to four different audiences. What each audience most needed to know and believe determined which stories the Gospel authors shared.

BIBLICAL LITERARY GENRES: What type of literature did the author use? The genre determines the interpretation. The author may have used different types within the same book. Circle the genre(s) used:

Historical/Narrative/Story – Law – Poetry – Wisdom – Letters/Epistles – Prophecy – Apocalyptic

- 1. **Historical/Narrative/Story:** A record of actual events (Genesis, the Gospels)
- 2. **Law:** A record of God's laws/commands given to God's people, the nation of Israel (Leviticus)
- 3. **Poetry:** Uses poetic devices (such as symbolism and imagery) to emphasize the message (Psalms)
- 4. **Wisdom:** Makes generally true statements to live by but are not to be considered promises (Proverbs)
- 5. **Letters/Epistles:** Written to a specific audience usually to address a specific need or problem (Titus)
- 6. **Prophecy:** Messages (oracles) from God's prophets that are either Forthtelling or Foretelling (Habakkuk)
 - Forthtelling:** Messages of Truth to an intended audience describing current state of affairs (Deut. 18:15-18)
 - Foretelling:** Messages about future events, judgments, or blessings (Isaiah 53)
- 7. **Apocalyptic:** Visions or Messages given by God to give a glimpse into the invisible spiritual world (Revelation)

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE/CONTEXT:

Context determines the meaning of a word, phrase, or message.

When determining the author's intent of a whole book, consider the context of the book within the context of the whole Bible? Consider when the book was written. Was it before or after Israel's exile? Before or after the cross? Etc.

When determining the author's intent of a chapter within the book, consider what was happening before and after the chapter you're studying.

Each author was inspired to write according to the need of the original audience. What problems or needs did the audience face that the author addressed?

What had just happened in the lives of the audience or was about to happen?

What was going on in the world that may have led to their need for this message?

CHRIST CONNECTION: It's All About Him!

Note the ways the book points to Christ.



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CHRIST CONNECTION: It's All About Him!

HOW TO USE THIS 3-STEP WORKSHEET



It's All About Him!

Book of the Bible/Chapter

Transformational Bible Study Method

STEP 1—INTENT

(See *INTENT Explanation Worksheet*)

What did the author intend for the original audience to know? Avoid reading through a 21st century world-view.

STEP 2—TRUTH

What truths does the passage reveal about the character, nature, and ways of God? What truths does it reveal about the character, nature, and ways of God's people? The world? Sin? Satan? Or others in the passage?

God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

In this section, write down anything the passage you're studying reveals about the character, nature, or ways of God the Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit.

The goal of this section is to understand what God wants us to know about Himself so that we can develop a proper view of Him—a high view of God.

We will never obey God faithfully until we trust Him fully. We'll never trust anyone more than we know them. We'll never truly know, and love the God of the Word apart from the Word of God.

Other Main Characters

In this section, write down anything the passage you're studying reveals about the character, nature, or ways of any other main character in the passage such as: mankind, God's people, a specific individual (Moses or Paul), Satan, demons, the Law, God's enemies such as the Babylonians, sin, our sin nature, etc.

I recommend writing the main characters across the top of the section and noting any information pertaining to them under their heading.

The goal of this section is to understand what God wants us to know about our own character, nature, and ways as well as those of the other main characters in the passage.

This will help protect us from having a higher view of anyone or anything other than God.

Some "characters" are intangible such as sin, but on this worksheet we treat them as living entities. It helps us understand the way they work in the world and in our hearts and minds.

STEP 3—TRANSFORMATION

If I BELIEVE and ACT on what God has revealed, how will my heart be changed and my life be different tomorrow?

If I BELIEVE and ACT on what God has revealed, I WILL...

In this section, write out as many ways as possible that believing and acting on what God has revealed in the passage you're studying will change your heart and make a difference in your life tomorrow—or even today!

Note the use of the phrase, "I WILL." If we truly believe and act on what God's Word reveals, it "will" change us. It not just that we "can" be changed and obey God, we "will." Amen.

When Christ came into this world as a man, He obeyed God in everything because He fully believed and acted on every Truth He knew about God—and He knew every Truth. If we know God fully as Christ did (and does), we will obey God faithfully as Christ did (and does). We can't know Him as well as Christ because we're not all-knowing as He is, but as we know Him more, we will trust and obey Him more and rejoice in the God of our salvation even in the midst of trouble.

Once you've filled out this section, pray. Pray often for God to do this great work of transformation in you as you believe and act on His Word.



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God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

Other Main Characters



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