



How to do a Verse Analysis

8 Simple Steps

1. Pick a verse
2. Read the verse several times
3. Write out the verse
 - a. Double or triple space
 - b. Break down the sentence based on the sentence structure
4. What does the verse say?
5. Examine the context
 - a. Read the verse before and the verse after. How does this shed light on the verse?
 - b. Read from the beginning to the end of the chapter surrounding the verse.
How does this shed light on the verse?
 - c. Read from the beginning to the end of the book (a book study).
How does this shed light on the verse?
6. What does the verse mean?
7. How do you see yourself applying this verse?
8. Questions

Tips and hints for completing a verse analysis

Verse analysis is a key building block in studying the Bible. Considering a verse in the expanding context of a passage, a book, and even to all of God's Word, New Testament and Old Testament, is fundamental to reading the Bible and applying it to our lives in today's world.

When you write the verse out, double or triple space so you have room to add notes or questions. As you write out the verse, break the sentences down into its grammatical structure to help add clarity. (See the general guidelines for interpretation and application)

Pay extra attention when you get to step 4, writing out what the verse says. The tendency is to read a verse and say, "This means...", or, "This is saying...". The inclination is often to take for granted what we may have heard from someone else or draw a conclusion too quickly. As you consider what a verse actually says, be sure not to expand its meaning into things it does not say or limit its meaning to what we may have always heard. Apply good logic to what you read to determine what a verse actually says.

Another common mistake is to mistake interpretation for application. Interpretation is determining what a verse means - the process of determining meaning. Application is the process of determining how one applies the meaning of their verse to their life and their particular circumstances. Determining meaning is based on the original intent of the speaker or author in the context of the particular situation in Scripture. The meaning of the verse can often be applied to several different circumstances or situations. Understanding the difference between interpretation and application can be helpful and important.

The importance of step 5 cannot be overemphasized. To really understand the meaning of a passage, you have to get an understanding of the context in which the passage was written and the circumstances relating to what is written. You can start understanding the context of a verse by simply beginning with the verse before and the verse after the one you are studying. How do these verse shed light on the verse you are reading? Expand the context as you read to gain a greater understanding. You can go forward and backward to the natural grammatical breaks in a passage or, to make it easy, to the beginning and end of the chapter of the verse you are studying. You can continue to the beginning and end of a book and, ultimately to the beginning and end of the Bible to get the complete perspective.

How to do a Verse Analysis

Do what makes sense for your particular study knowing that expanding the context always allows you to get the complete context of what God is trying to say through His Word.

The Bible, God's Word is His story - "His(s)tory if you will, of a living God and His creation, including man. The Bible tells the story of God, creation, and man.