

# The Three Steps of Bible Study

## 1. Observation: What Does the Scripture Say?

- a. Notice Details, words, sentences, structure, etc.
- b. Don't read anything *into* the text, simply understand what it says

## 2. Interpretation: What Does the Scripture Mean?

- a. Follow the 5 Steps in the Interpretive Journey (see Handout)
- b. Come up with a "Big Idea" from the passage

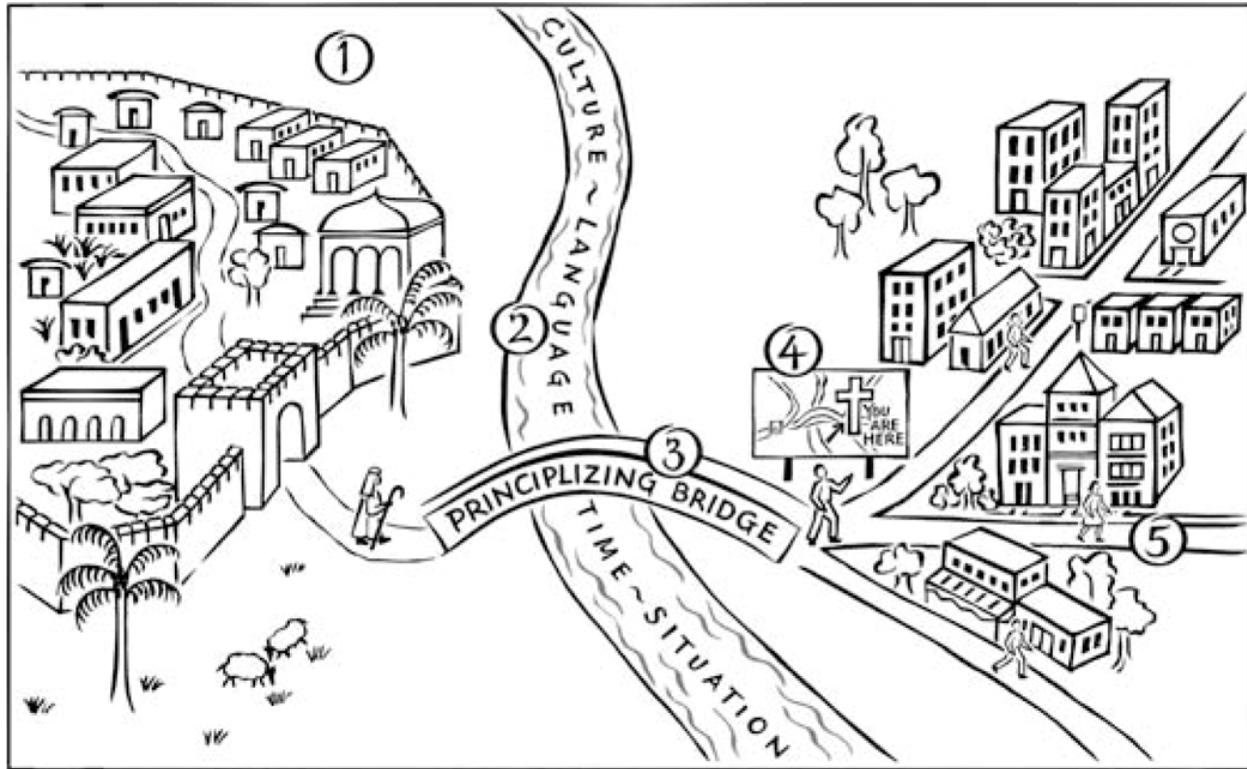
## 3. Application: How do I Respond to the Truth of the Scripture?

- a. Application is for the modern reader - either you or your audience
- b. Application should always be specific, not general

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Hendricks, Howard G., and William Hendricks. *Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible*. 2nd ed. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2007.

# The Interpretive Journey



Step 1: Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the original audience?

Step 2: Measure the width of the river to cross. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

Step 3: Cross the principlizing bridge. What is the theological principle in this text?

Step 4: Consult the biblical map. How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

Step 5: Grasp the text in our town. How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles?

J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, Fourth Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020), 32.