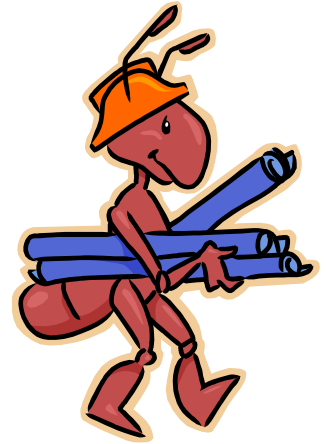


How can I understand the Bible?

You can study the Bible in lots of ways- but it's good to have a plan!

Observation- "See it"- what does the passage say? Carefully examine what the words are saying- read it a few times. To whom was the passage written? Try to observe key words/phrases- how do these words relate to the rest of the book & to the rest of the Bible. Try to put yourself in the picture. Ask questions like "Who/what/where/when" and other "detective questions". Write down your observations and pay attention to figures of speech.



Interpretation- "Know It"- what does it mean? Ask more questions- why did the writer say this? What is the meaning of this? What is the significance or implication of this passage? Why is this important? What is the context or the historical perspective? Check on cross-references in your Bible and read commentaries written by Bible scholars on this passage.

Application- "Do it"- what does this passage ask *me* to do? Make it *Personal* (to me), *Practical* (giving a specific; definite course of action), *Provable* (there can be measurable change; re-read the passage later to see if you've had some progress in this area).