

## '16-'17 Women's Ministry Large Group Meetings

How to **STUDY** the **BIBLE** with both  
**OUR HEARTS** and **OUR MINDS**

**Outline of Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin**

### I. Let the Bible Speak of God

#### A. Study with Purpose – Look for the following major themes:

*(Work to place any given text within the Big Story of the Bible.)*

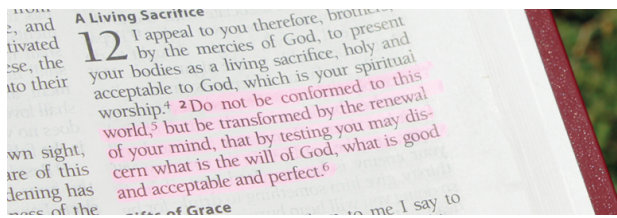
- 1) The Reign and Rule of God
- 2) Creation
- 3) Fall
- 4) Redemption
- 5) Restoration

#### B. Study with Perspective – Answer the archaeological questions below:

*(Work to place any given text in its original historical & cultural context.)*

- 1) Who wrote it?
- 2) When was it written?
- 3) To whom was it written?
- 4) In what style was it written?
  - a. **historical narrative**: factual retelling of events (Ruth, Esther, The Gospels, Acts)
  - b. **parables/storytelling**, - teaches a lesson/illustrate a point (Lk. 10:30-37 Good Samaritan)
  - c. **law** – guidelines for governing authorities, often difficult to understand (Genesis – Deu.)
  - d. **poetry** – uses language to symbolically or metaphorically to paint word pictures (Psalms)
  - e. **wisdom literature** – uses language to communicate principles that are generally true, though not universally true (Proverbs, Eccl.)
  - f. **prophecy** – like poetry, uses language in symbolic ways (Daniel, Ezekiel, Revelation)
  - g. **genealogical** (Genesis 5, Matthew 1, Luke 3) and **epistles/letter** (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians) are other types of literary styles.

- 5) Why was it written?



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## II. Let the Mind Transform the Heart

C. Study with **Patience** – Let God's Word change you in His time.

*(Work to gain understanding over time.)*

D. Study with **Process** – Try to understand the text before consulting commentaries.

*(Work first to "own" the text – then attempt interpretation & application.)*

1) Comprehension – What does it say?

- a. Read repetitively. Read other translations.
- b. Print out and mark up a copy of the text.
- c. Make annotations – notes, questions, highlighting, underlining, etc.
  1. Are words, phrases or ideas repeated?
  2. Is a particular attribute of God mentioned?
  3. Note key transition words: *if/then, therefore, likewise, but, because, or in the same way.*
  4. Does the text make several points in a row? List them.
  5. Write questions in the margins.

d. Make an outline of the text.

e. Use a dictionary, even for some familiar words.

2) Interpretation – What does it mean?

- a. Use cross-references to identify common themes, events & people.
- b. Paraphrase a verse/passage to increase your comprehension.
- c. Consult commentary from trusted sources.

3) Application – How should it change me?

- a. What does this passage teach me about God?
- b. How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?
- c. What should I do in response?

E. Study with **Prayer** – Implore the Holy Spirit to help you in study & application.

*(Work out your salvation through the Word of God & the power of the Holy Spirit.)*