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?
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.)