**Exegesis Worksheet Instructions**

This worksheet is an attempt to help you grow in your ability to “accurately handle the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15). God has spoken with perfect clarity in the Bible, yet we still must work hard and pray earnestly if we are to arrive at the correct meaning.

**Step 1: Observe**

Bible study starts with observation. Begin by printing out the text with generous spacing between lines. If marking up passages is new for you, then just grab a yellow highlighter and a black pen for now. Use the highlighter to mark interesting words that you may want to look up later. Use the pen to jot down any significant observations or insights.

**Step 2: Hypothesize**

Now that you’ve spent some significant time soaking in the details of the passage, take a stab at filling out the first three sections: Context, Structure, Main Point. Don’t spend any more than 30 minutes on this. Granted, you haven’t done any real research yet, but it is best to think for yourself before consulting other resources. Otherwise, you are just training yourself to slavishly follow whatever your go-to resources say. At the end of the process, you will come back and revise your answers to these sections.

**Step 3: Research**

Now you are ready to do some research. Organize all your observations and questions under the last section. Your goal now is to use the Bible and whatever resources you may have to answer your questions and to confirm the insights that you discovered. What does your Study Bible say? Try using a concordance to see how words are used in other passages. Record all the fruits of your research here.

**Step 4: Interpret**

Revise your answers and explain the passage in your own words. Define words, explain the flow of thought, and identify the precise meaning that the author intended.

**Step 5: Apply**

Finally, spend some good time thinking about how you should walk away from this passage as a changed man. The purpose of Bible study is to discover what God calls us to believe and how He calls us to live (2 Tim 3:14–17). Pray for God to help you apply the spiritual lessons that you discovered. Discussing these lessons with your wife or with a friend will help cement them into your memory.

**EXEGESIS WORKSHEET TEMPLATE**

**Context**

*Literary context? Cultural context? Biblical context?*

…

**Structure**

*How has the author structured this passage?*

1. …
2. …

**Main Point**

*Summarize the main point in one sentence.*

…

**Explanation**

*Explain the passage in your own words (4+ sentences).*

…

**Application**

*How should this passage affect your beliefs, your actions, your family, your church, the world?*

…

**Exegetical Notes**

*Use this section to record your observations, questions, and the fruits of your research. Think of this as a dumping ground for all your notes.*

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