

**Passage:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Context**

We must understand the context in order to see how the original audience understood the text. When we understand how the original audience understood a text, then we can understand how it applies to us today.

**Ask:**

“What is the *literary* context?” (The genre of writing; the verses/chapters before and after)

“What is the *historical* context?” (The situation of the original audience)

“Why is this text here?” Why is it in this place, in this chapter, in this book?

“How does the context inform my understanding of this text?”

### **Structure**

The structure (or organization) of a text will reveal an emphasis. That emphasis will help to discern the main idea and lead to application.

**Ask:**

“How is this text organized? What are the parts? Where are the key moments, words, images?”

“How do the parts fit together?”

“What emphasis does the structure reveal?”

## Connection to Jesus Christ

If the Bible is all about God's redemptive plan as revealed in Jesus Christ, then we must see how our text legitimately connects to the saving gospel message so we know how to live as Christians.

**Ask:**

“How does this text point forward to, back to, or up to the person and work of Christ?”

## Application

God speaks in his Word. He has purposes for his glory and our good in what he says. We have not fully understood a passage if we do not respond to it.

**Ask:**

“How does this passage, in light of Christ, apply to me and others in my context and situation? How should I respond?”