

# Finding the Author's Intended Meaning: A Bible Study for Older Kids



Created by Annette at In All You Do for  
Intoxicated on Life

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# Understanding the Author's Intended Meaning

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This is a great method of studying God's Word in order to exegete the text accurately and find the author's intended meaning.

1. **Pray** and ask God to remove your own presuppositions and ideas about the text. Pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten you and open His Word to you that you may grow In Christ Jesus!
2. **Read the passage in it's entirety.** Do not stop, do not skip around. Do not highlight. Just read.
3. **Who is speaking?**
4. **To whom are they speaking?**
5. **Dispensation?** - a divinely appointed order or age, i.e. "the old Mosaic, or Jewish dispensation; the new gospel, or Christian dispensation.
6. **Genre?** - Type of literature: Narrative, History, Poetry, Apocalyptic, etc. (Metaphors, analogies, etc.)
7. **Cultural and Historical Background?** - Any significant characteristics of that time period that may affect the understanding of the passage. i.e. Why were tax collectors loathed by the Jews in the Judeo-Roman culture?
8. **Surrounding Context?** - Starting with a particular verse, the context is the paragraph(s) and chapter(s) surrounding that verse or verses that apply to the subject at hand. This then expands to the rest of that book or books by the same author addressing that same subject and then the whole Bible.
9. **Geography?** - Anything geographical that might affect understanding or application.
10. **Words?** - Looking up words that you *think* you know and words you don't quite understand or grasp in order to comprehend the translation and/or the original text of Greek and Hebrew.  
i.e. Repentance in the Greek had the overarching understanding of complete conversion as well as turning from our own ideas.

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## Definitions

**Exegete** - from the Greek, *exegetes*, meaning "an expounder, interpreter"

**Presupposition** - something you assume beforehand, based on hearsay rather than fact.

**Mosaic** - relating to Moses or the writings, laws and principles attributed to him

**Concordance** - an alphabetical index of subjects, topics or the principle words of a book, as in the Bible, with a reference to the passage in which each occurs.

## Helpful resources:

**Strong's Concordance** is a good basic way to find a little extra on the meaning of the Greek and Hebrew words.

**BibleHub.com** is a great resource for Greek/Hebrew and concordance work.

**Commentaries** will almost always have to be used to find historical/cultural background information. **WARNING:** Using commentaries must be done carefully so as not to allow even the commentator's presuppositions to influence the correct exegesis of the text. Always try to use Commentaries Last. So if you don't have access to a "Bible Backgrounds Commentary" do background/culture work LAST.

**Bible apps for Tablets and Phones** also have some good resources. Many of them will show the Strong's word number and allow you to quickly reference the Greek/Hebrew in your text.

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Passage(s) of Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Pray** and ask God to remove your own presuppositions and ideas about the text.

2. **Read the passage in its entirety.** Do not stop, do not skip around. Do not highlight. Just read.

3. **Who is speaking?** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **To whom are they speaking?** \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Dispensation?** \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Genre?** \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Cultural and Historical Background?** \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Surrounding Context?** \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Geography?** \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Words?** \_\_\_\_\_