

## *For Deeper Study:*



Grab a Study Bible, commentary, Bible Dictionary, internet resources, and other Bible study resources you own or have available.

### **Understand the Context through the 5Ws (Who, Where, When, What, Why)**

1. Who wrote this passage? To whom did they write it? Who are the characters in the story?
2. Where was the audience that first heard this passage? Where does the story take place?
3. When does this story occur (what just happened, what's about to happen next)?
4. What religious context is this passage written in? What is the cultural/secular context? What words or phrases do you need to study more to understand what they meant?
5. Why was this passage written? Why was it written in this way? Why are these details included? Why did the characters do/say what they did?

### **Understand the Literary Structure**

1. What literary structure is employed in this passage (contrast, comparison, pattern, climax)?
2. Is there a verse which seems to hold this passage together based on its literary structure?
3. What central point is the passage making?
4. How did that central point apply to the first audience to hear it?
5. How does the central point apply to all Christians for all time?
6. How does the central point apply to you personally?

### **Observe and Question**

Great study comes out of answering questions. The more questions you ask, the more you have to answer. And the more you find answers to, the deeper you will understand a passage. Feel free to ask as many questions of the text as you wish, and answer as many as you can. (Below are some questions of the first verse in this passage.)

1. Who is "we"?
2. What were they just talking about?
3. Is clarity on the topic explained elsewhere in scripture?
4. Did the audience ever try to understand?
5. What is the difference in what they are doing now vs. before?
6. Do we have indication as to *why* the audience no longer tries to understand? What does that look like for the author and audience?

### **Word Study**

1. What words seem to be key to understanding this passage (look for 1-3)?
2. Where else are these words used in scripture? Does the larger context of scripture enlighten the meaning of this word?
3. How is this word defined in Greek/Hebrew dictionaries?
4. How is it defined in English dictionaries?