

www.ShapeandSharpen.org

## GUIDE TO BIBLE STUDY & APPLICATION

---

# Shape & Sharpen

The Shape & Sharpen 5-step guide to understanding and  
applying Bible passages

Abbreviated Version



Shapeandsharpen



@shapesharpen



@shapesharpen

---

---

## Introduction

This guide gives you 5 questions to ask of the passage you are studying. The questions are meant to guide you so that you find the author's intended meaning, and see how it applies to you today.

The first question, "What does it say?", is intended to help you think through what the author is actually saying and what it would have meant to his original audience. The task here is to observe what the *author* is saying, not what you *think, assume or want* him to be saying. We must always aim to extract the author's true intended meaning from the text, rather than put our own ideas in. Ask yourself, what is the point the author is trying to make?

The second question, "What does it say about God?", is intended to focus our attention on God's attributes - His holiness, goodness, faithfulness, justice, love, wrath, mercy, grace, etc. The Bible is written to show us who God is and what He has done. It makes sense to begin your study by understanding what we can learn about God in the text.

The third question, "What does it say about us?", is intended to help us look into our own hearts and expose our failings and weaknesses - more specifically, our sin. The glory of God and His goodness and perfection always exposes us for who we are, and why we need Him.

The fourth question, "What has God done?", is intended to help us look to Jesus and the Gospel solution. God doesn't reveal our sin and depravity only to leave us feeling condemned, but He does so in order that we will see our need of salvation, look to Jesus and be saved. He calls us to repent from our sin and turn to Jesus in faith, trusting in His finished work on our behalf.

The last question, "What must we do?", is intended to help us apply God's Word in our lives. How will you now live in light of who God is and what He has done for you? What new perspective has it given you? What needs to change? What will you do differently? What practical things can you do to see these changes become reality?

I trust and pray that your times of studying and refreshing in God's Word would be a tremendous blessing to your family, and that you will grow in the grace of Christ as a result.

---

## 1. What does it SAY?

- C What is the **context**?
- A **Analyse** the flow of thought
- R Look for **repetition** of words / phrases & check **references**
- P What **problems** do you need to solve?
- S **Summarize** the author's main point

---

## 2. What does it say about GOD?

- C What does it say about God's **character**?
- C What does it say about God's **conduct**?
- C What does it say about God's **commands**?

---

## 3. What does it say about US?

- C What does it say about how God **created** us to be?
- C What does it say about our **condition**?
- C What does it say about our **character** and **cravings**?
- C What does it say about our **conduct**?

---

## 4. What has GOD done?

- T** What **truths** do we see God teaching?
  - A** What **actions** do we see God taking?
  - P** What **promises** do we see God making?
- 

## 5. What must WE do?

- P** What should I **praise** and thank God for?
- C** What **sins** and **truths** do I need to **confess**?
- A** How does God want to shape my **affections** and my **actions**?
- R** How should I **relate** to God and others?
- S** **Summarize** in one sentence your conclusions & commitments