

Psalm 119

There are 8 different terms used throughout Psalm 119 to describe God's Word. Make sure of their definition each time they are used & the correct context in which they are employed. These are NOT all synonyms with the same meaning, but each communicate something very specific.

Commandment ("Mitsvah") Used 22 times	Law ("Torah") Used 25 times	Ordinance/ Judgment ("Mishpat") Used 20 times	Precept ("Piqqud") Used 21 times	Statute ("Choq", "Chuuqah") Used 22 times	Testimony ("Edah", "Eduth") Used 22 times	Ways ("Derek", "Orach") Used 7 times	Word ("Dabar", "Imrah") Used 18 times
Requirements for living in a covenant relationship with God.	"Torah" is not only the name of the Law, but also means "teaching" or "instruction".	What we might call "case law", the application of God's Word in situations not specifically addressed in Scripture word-for-word.	From the Hebrew word for "inspect". The requirements of God's people AFTER entering into a covenant relationship with Him.	Prescribed tasks & boundaries of a permanent nature, such as rules for holy days, sacrifices, limits on marriage, etc.	"Eye witness" testimony from God's personal corroboration of the benefits and/or consequences where His Word is concerned.	Refers to a well-travelled road. The course which God reveals as right & which humans stick to or stray from.	A matter or cause spoken directly by God. Whether the matter is in the past or present, it is always continuously active.

Inductive Study Approach

To facilitate "hearing" God's Word as you study, this approach employs three basic, sequential techniques:

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application

Observation

Teaches you to see what the passage says and is the basis for accurate interpretation & correct application. Observation answers the question, "What does the passage say?"

Step 1: Begin with Prayer

Step 2: Ask the "5 W's & an H"

- ▶ **Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? To whom are they speaking?
- ▶ **What** is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event, or teaching?
- ▶ **When** do/will the events occur or did/will something happen to someone in particular?
- ▶ **Where** did or will this happen? Where was it said? Does this location have a relevant past or future mention in Scripture?
- ▶ **Why** is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time/to this person/in that place?
- ▶ **How** will it happen? How is to be done? How is it illustrated?

Step 3: Mark Keywords & Phrases

Step 4: Look for Lists

Step 5: Watch for Contrasts & Comparisons

Step 6: Note Expressions of Time

(Don't forget "until", "then", "when", and "after".)

Step 7: Identify Terms of Conclusion

("wherefore", "finally", "for this reason", "therefore", etc.)

Step 8: Develop Chapter Themes

Ignore the ones printed in your Bible and instead write in the margin what YOU think the theme is, centering on the main person, event, teaching or subject of Scripture. (Sometimes themes actually begin in the previous chapter and/or end in the subsequent chapter.)

Interpretation

Answers the question, "What does the passage mean?"

Follow these basic rules:

1. Remember that context always rules first.
2. Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God. (Compare and contrast similar passages.)
3. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
4. Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.
5. Interpret Scripture literally.
6. Allegories and typology are used to illuminate & confirm, never to replace & create.
7. The NT has priority.

Application

Answers the question, "What does it really mean to me personally? What truths can I put into practice? What changes should I make to my life?"

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

[2 Timothy 3:16-17]