

# Expository Study Worksheet

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Text: What does it say?

1. Pray, and then read the text at least a couple of times. (Using multiple translations may be helpful.)
2. What type of book is this ( Epistle  Gospel  History  Law  Poetry/Wisdom  Prophecy), and how does that inform our understanding of what we read?
3. What type of text is this ( Descriptive  Expository  Hortatory  Narrative  Procedural), and how does that inform our understanding of what we read?
4. What is this text about?
5. Identify the human writer and any Biblical, historical, or cultural context details that can shed light on his intentions.
6. What figures are involved in this text, and what roles do they play?
7. How is this text structured, and what does that structure emphasize?
8. Identify any lists.
9. What are some of the key words or phrases used in the text?
10. Are any of them repeated, and what does this tell us?
11. Identify any significant verbs—especially imperatives (commands) or subjunctives (wishes).
12. Identify any promises made in the text.
13. Identify any comparisons (X is like Y).
14. Identify any contrasts (X is different from Y).
15. Identify any cause-effect relationships (X leads to Y).
16. What main idea is the writer putting forward?
17. Does the text raise any questions for you? Are there difficult details you need to research further? Take a moment to write them down.

## Them/Then: How did the original audience understand the text?

18. Identify the original audience and any Biblical, historical, or cultural context details that can help us discern how they would have understood this text.
19. Do the Scriptures available to them at that time say anything that would have shaped their understanding, or do subsequent Scriptures shed any light on their reaction?
20. How does this text build on the text right before it?

21. How does this text prepare the reader for the text that follows?

22. How does this text fit within the context of the book in which it is found?

23. How would the original audience have interpreted this text?

24. How would they have responded to this text?

25. How well do your answers about the audience in questions 23 and 24 correspond to your answer about the writer in question 16? If it sounds like they are having two different conversations, you may need to take a second look at the text.

26. How does the text support (1,2,&3 lead to X) or explain (X means 1,2,&3) the main idea from question 16?

27. Explore any related texts of Scripture for additional insights. Write down what you find.

28. Pause to research the issues you wrote down in question 17. Write down any answers you uncover.

## The Cross: What does the text tell us about Jesus?

29. If Jesus Christ is directly featured or mentioned in the text, what does it teach about Him?

30. If He is not directly featured or mentioned, where do this text and its main idea fit in the overall arc of God's redemptive plans?

31. Does the text feature any pictures, prophecies, or promises from God fulfilled in or by Jesus Christ?

32. Does it touch on any aspect of the Gospel or point to any characteristics of Christ?

33. How did God relate to His people when this text was written? How did Jesus affect that relationship or bring it to that point?

## Today: How do we live our lives in light of the text?

34. Do any promises in the text apply to us today? If so, how? If not, what can we learn from them anyway?

35. Do any commands or calls in the text (coming from our imperatives and subjunctives in question 11) apply to us today? If so, how? If not, what can we learn from them anyway?

36. Are there any other principles in the text that apply today? How?

37. How can we learn from the examples (good or bad) in the text?

38. What does this passage show me that I need to change?

39. What does this passage show me as a reason to praise God?

40. What specific steps can I take to walk in obedience to my Lord after what I have just studied?