How to approach studying the Bible

1. *Read the book: Establish author, audience and context (completed)*
2. Read the chapter: Identify the message being communicated
3. Identify questions that you want to have answered: Use resources to find answers.
4. Read the chapter: Identify the message being communicated
5. Map the audience & message: Apply the message to your life
6. Compare your conclusions with others: Trace back any differences to the text

Session 3: Understanding Chapter 2

Objective: Identify the message of Chapter 2 and apply it as God's word spoken into our lives.

Step Two: Read the chapter and identify the message Paul is communicating to Timothy

Paul organizes this chapter around 3 key statements that seem to be structural aspects of his ministry:

- I urge… (1)
- I desire (8)
- I do not permit (12)

All of these seem to be pointing toward "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." This is contrasted with "anger and quarreling" (v8)

- Externally (in society)
- Internally (in the church)

Contrast this with the description of people in Chapter 1: "wandered away into vain discussion", " have made a shipwreck of their faith".

Paul is painting a picture of what The Church was designed to be. When times of peacefulness happen the church is able to pursue godliness. When times of unrest occur, godliness is more difficult to pursue. Therefore, all should pray for peace.

Within the church, order must also take place. Men lead and teach, women learn quietly, if necessary asking questions after the service is done.

Step Three: Identify and write down any questions that arise out of the chapter. - Use resources to research and answer the questions you've written down.

Does the term "first of all" imply greater priority?

- I did not find any specific resource that speaks to this phrase.
- Since chapter 1 ends with "the charge". This seems to be the first thing Paul addresses by way of elaborating on the charge. The rest of the letter does not include any similar or matching

terms (such as finally) that would specify a greater framework. Therefore the simplest and cleanest interpretation is that this refers to the first thing Paul intends to bring up.

Is there any difference in the words supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings?

- Blue Letter Bible – Strong's Concordance & Thayer's Greek Lexicon
- [BLB] Supplication: any pious address to God
- [BLB] Prayers: prayer addressed to God
- [BLB] Intercessions: an interview, i.e. (specially) supplication:—intercession, prayer. (This word only occurs 2x in NT – both in 1 Timothy).
- [BLB] Thanksgivings: gratitude; actively, grateful language (to God, as an act of worship):—thankfulness, (giving of) thanks(-giving).
- Paul seems to be emphasizing a diversity of prayer and prayer for several purposes. This is a wide or broad view of prayer, not a narrow or focused view.
- All of this prayer is made on behalf of "all people" specifically including the leaders to the end of leading a peaceful and quiet life of godliness.

What is the significance of "braided hair and costly attire?"

- ESV Study Bible: While researching this phrase, I was directed to the structure of the sentence (which I missed on my own):
    - I desire… the men should pray… likewise the women... Paul lays out prayer as the goal for both men and women.
    - …without anger or quarrelling. The men struggled with issues of anger which were incompatible with holy prayer. Possibly pridefulness or competition over the prayers was leading to anger and defeating the purpose of the prayers and rendering them ineffectual.
    - …women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel. The thing the women struggled with was modesty, so Paul prescribes good works as the proper adornment instead of fancy hairstyles and jewelry.

What is the scope of Paul not permitting women to speak?

- ESV Study Bible: I do not permit… Paul is writing from his position and role as an apostle. This is an authoritative communication.
- The context relates to the proper order for when the church is assembled together as in a service. Paul specifically prohibits 2 things:
    - A woman teaching (to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses – BLB: Thayer's Lexicon) men
    - A woman exercising authority (to act of oneself, i.e. (figuratively) dominate:—usurp authority over. – BLB Strong's Definitions) over a man.

- The scope of Paul's prohibition on speaking extends only to these 2 actions in the context of the church. That is, that the women were not to overstep the role of the appointed leaders of the church – who were designated to do these activities. (See 1 Timothy 3).
- Paul offers a theological, not practical or capability-based, explanation in 13-15

Step Four: Read the chapter and refine the message Paul is communicating to Timothy (now that your questions are answered)

As Timothy executes on his charge, Paul delivers 3 instructions from his authority as an apostle:

1. Pursue gospel-fueled prayer
    a. Pray for everyone all the way up to the king
    b. Pray that Paul, Timothy & everyone in the church ("we") can live peacefully and godly lives (effective & unhindered)
    c. The goal of prayer is that all people can come to a knowledge of the truth – to be saved
2. Promote prayer over selfish alternatives (anger and immodesty)
    a. Men should pray without anger or discussion that leads to rebellion (against God).
    b. Women should pray and focus on good works rather than beautiful hair or jewelry
3. Promote order through complimentary contribution
    a. Women should not disrupt services by trying to teach or lead the men
    b. Women's blessing /contribution occurs in the bearing and rearing of children (redeeming Genesis 3:16)

This seems to be a setup for Chapter 3 (looking ahead).

Step Five part 1: Map the Audience (how much and in what ways is Timothy like us today?)
Review and confirm the previous mapping. The prior assessment stands. No real changes on the mapping.

Timothy is UNLIKE me in that he is a companion and protégé of the Apostle Paul. As such, he had experiences and first-hand knowledge that I do not have. He also was the recipient of certain prophecies and confirmations witnessed by Paul and others.

Timothy is UNLIKE me in that he is the leader of a church in Ephesus – I am an attendee of a church in America, but do not have the same leadership responsibility.

Timothy is LIKE me in that he is a believer, saved by the same faith as me, and following the same gospel as me. The same doctrinal truths that are relevant to him are relevant to me in the same way.

Step Five part 2: Map the message to apply to me today

- What commands must I obey?
    - Pray for all people and for those in high positions of authority (President, Governor, Mayor, etc).
    - Pray for an opportunity to live in a way that proclaims the gospel without distractions.

1 Timothy - A Bible Study

- What truth must I hold dear?
    - There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all.
- What error must I flee?
    - As a man, I must flee from anger and quarreling that leads me into rebellion against God.
- How is God revealed?
    - God is revealed as orderly and peaceful – which is what I am to seek to best present the gospel.
    - God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.
- How is the gospel made clear?
    - The essence of the gospel is presented in verse 6.
    - The whole of the chapter is about removing distractions from the gospel.

- What actions can I take in the next 7 days that will demonstrate what I said above is real?
    - More prayer. I don't pray in the all-inclusive way that Paul presents.
    - Prayer with clearer purpose. Many of my prayers are fundamentally selfish, and are geared toward pleasing me. Instead I should be praying about how to make the gospel clear in my life and conversation.
    - This is very convicting.