



## **Bible Study Companion Guide**

*Based on Women of the Word* (Jen Wilkin)

*& 40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Robert Plummer)

---



## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN: FOUNDATIONAL REMINDERS**

- **The Bible is about God first.** Ask: “What does this passage reveal about God?”
  - **Strive for understanding before application.**
  - **Bible study is a discipline, not a quick fix.**
  - **Let Scripture shape your emotions, not the other way around.**
  - **Study with humility, consistency, and prayer.**
- 



## **KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE STUDYING**

### **1. What kind of literature is this?**

*(Plummer: Questions 5–7)*

- Is it narrative, poetry, prophecy, epistle, wisdom, apocalyptic?
- How does the genre affect how I read and interpret it?

### **2. What is the historical and cultural context?**

*(Plummer: Questions 9–11)*

- Who is speaking?
- Who was the original audience?
- What was happening in history at this time?

### **3. Where is this in the overall story of the Bible?**

*(Wilkin: Purpose and Perspective)*

- Is this part of creation, fall, redemption, or restoration?

### **4. What does the text say? (Observation)**

*(Wilkin: Process—Observation first)*

- What repeated words or phrases do I notice?
- Are there commands, promises, warnings?

## 5. What does the text mean? (Interpretation)

*(Wilkin & Plummer: Interpretation before application)*

- How would the original audience have understood this?
- Are there cross-references or parallel passages?

## 6. What does this teach me about God? About humanity?

*(Wilkin: God-centered focus)*

- What attributes of God are on display?
- What does this say about human nature and need?

## 7. How should I respond? (Application)

*(Wilkin: Apply last, not first)*

- How should this change my thinking, actions, or affections?

---

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- **Let Scripture interpret Scripture.**  
Use clear passages to understand harder ones.
- **Avoid moralizing or inserting yourself as the hero.**  
Focus on what God is doing.
- **Be cautious of common fallacies:**
  - Over-allegorizing
  - Proof-texting
  - Ignoring context
- **Use good tools wisely:**  
Bible dictionaries, commentaries, concordances, and multiple translations.
- **Study in community.**  
Invite discussion and correction with humility.

---

## PRAYER FOR STUDY

“Lord, help me to know You through Your Word. Give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to love the truth. Shape me into Your likeness through the Scriptures. Amen.”