

INTERPRETIVE EXERCISE

READING THE BIBLE RESPONSIBLY

Group Members: _____

Passage Studied _____

STEP		Your Notes
1. <i>What Does It Say?</i> • Read slowly and carefully through the passage • Make observations. Note key words, setting, themes • Ask questions based on the observations.	<u>Think</u> What happened “then and there?”	
2. <i>What Does It Mean?</i> • Based on your observations and paying close attention to the context, derive possible interpretive conclusions. • What is the author trying to say? What is the big picture?	<u>Feel/Think</u> What did text mean to the original author and readers? How is God present?	
3. <i>How Can We Use It?</i> • Based on what it said to the people then, what does it say to us now? • How is God speaking to us today through this text?	<u>Do</u> What does the text <u>mean</u> here and now?	