

# **HERMENEUTICS**

# **EXERCISE & RESOURCE GUIDE**



# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

**This guide is meant to be used as a companion to the GSM Hermeneutics Course. In it you will find the following:**

- Step by step instructions for studying a Bible passage
- Copies of the markups from the examples in the course videos
- Additional scripture observation examples
- Practice sheets
- A list of additional resources

We encourage you to regularly refer back to this guide as you progress through the course videos and to use the practice sheets provided to develop the skills you are learning.

May God give you grace to understand the scriptures!

# HOW TO STUDY A BIBLE PASSAGE: STEP BY STEP

Use the following process to develop your Bible study skills. As you gain experience, feel free to re-arrange, modify, or add-to these steps. In the meantime we recommend that you use this process to study several passages.

## **PREPARE**

- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you
- Read the passage aloud 3-5 times

## **OBSERVE - WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?**

- **Answer the following questions and mark them in your passage:**
  - Who is in the passage?
  - What is happening in the passage?
  - Where is it happening? Do they change locations?
  - When is it happening? How much time passes?
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does it say about people?
- **List or mark the following:**
  - Repeated words
  - Comparison/contrast
  - Verbs
  - Pronouns
  - Emotional terms
  - Figures of speech
  - Conjunctions
  - Old Testament references (if in NT)
- **Going further:**
  - Check literary context
    - What is happening in the surrounding passages?
    - What is happening in the book?
  - Discover historical/cultural context
    - Check Bible dictionaries, background commentaries or other sources for information on the world the book was written & received in
  - Locate geography
    - Use maps to determine the locations of the places mentioned

## **INTERPRET - WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?**

- List the timeless truths
- Identify the central truth
- Answer: How does this passage point to Christ? (don't over-spiritualize)

## **APPLY - HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?**

- **Answer the following:**
  - Are there any truths to believe?
  - Are there any examples to follow? Any bad examples to avoid?
  - Are there any commands to obey?

# **EXAMPLE PASSAGES FROM COURSE VIDEOS**

JONAH 1  
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

NOW the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

- 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."
- 3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.
- 4 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.
- 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.
- 6 So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."
- 7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.
- 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"
- 9 And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."
- 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

- 11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.
- 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."
- 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.
- 14 Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you."
- 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.
- 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.
- 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

## Greeting

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

## Testing of Your Faith

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it

will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of

the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive

anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

WHY DOES HE CHANGE TOPIC?

How?  
SALVATION?  
VERY IMPORTANT!  
DEFINITION?  
BY WHAT?  
CONNECTED?  
WHAT LIGHTS?  
GOSPEL?

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

MEANING?

TRIAL — STEADFASTNESS — PERFECT + COMPLETE — CROWN OF LIFE  
TEMPTATION ~ LURE + ENTICE — SIN — DEATH

Mark 4: 35-41 (ESV)

Jesus teaching parables all day  
Disciples don't question Jesus  
stem is where the captain was

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

What day? What happened?  
Did they know or expect a storm?  
Why did disciples wait?  
Why/How was Jesus asleep?  
Why were the disciples grumbling?  
Inn?

first time they've seen Jesus rebuke nature/craft  
connection between fear & faith  
unresolved

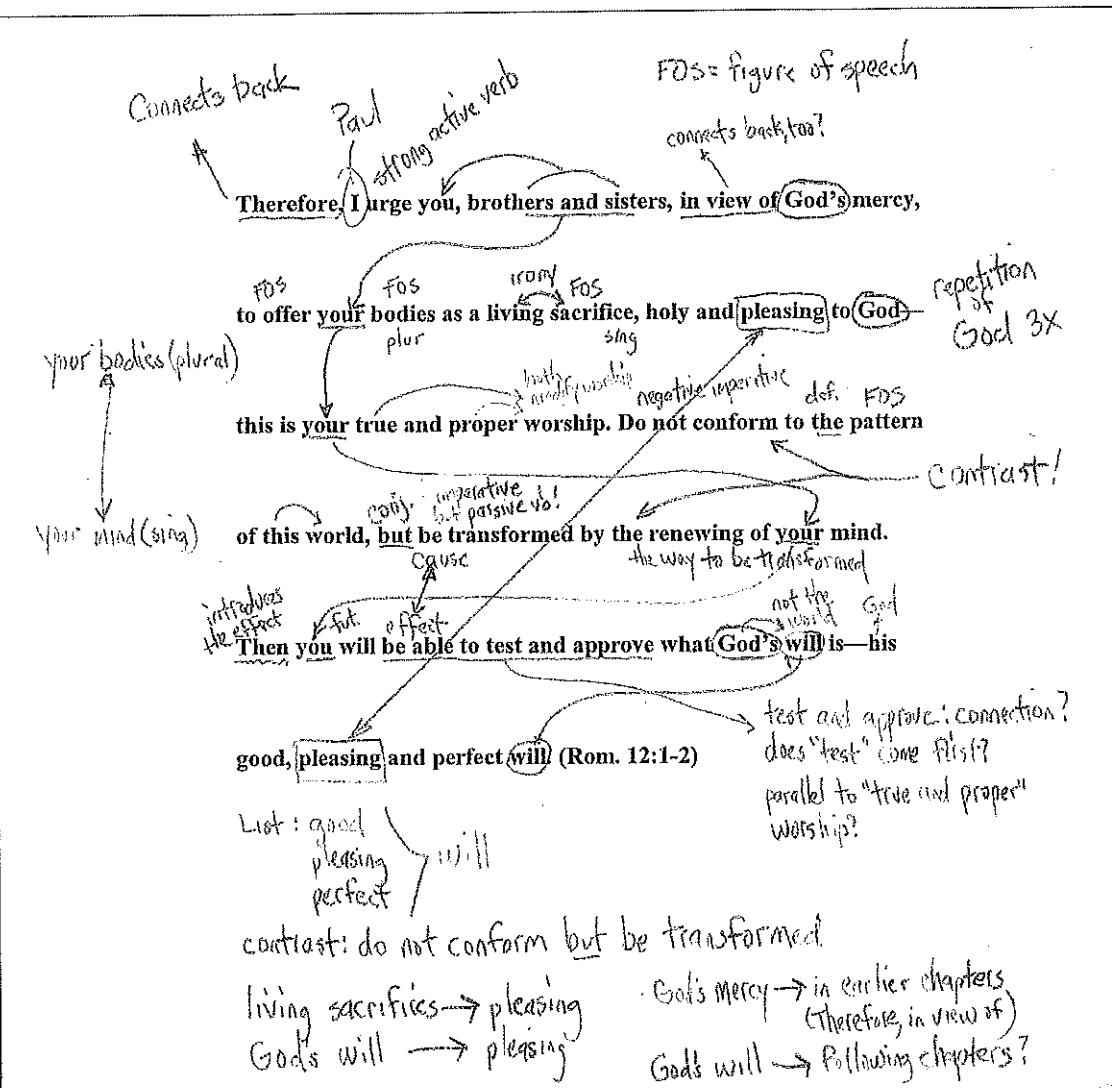
### Interpretations

- Disconnect between disciples & Jesus. They do not have confidence that Jesus cares.
- live action parable, lives in danger

### Application

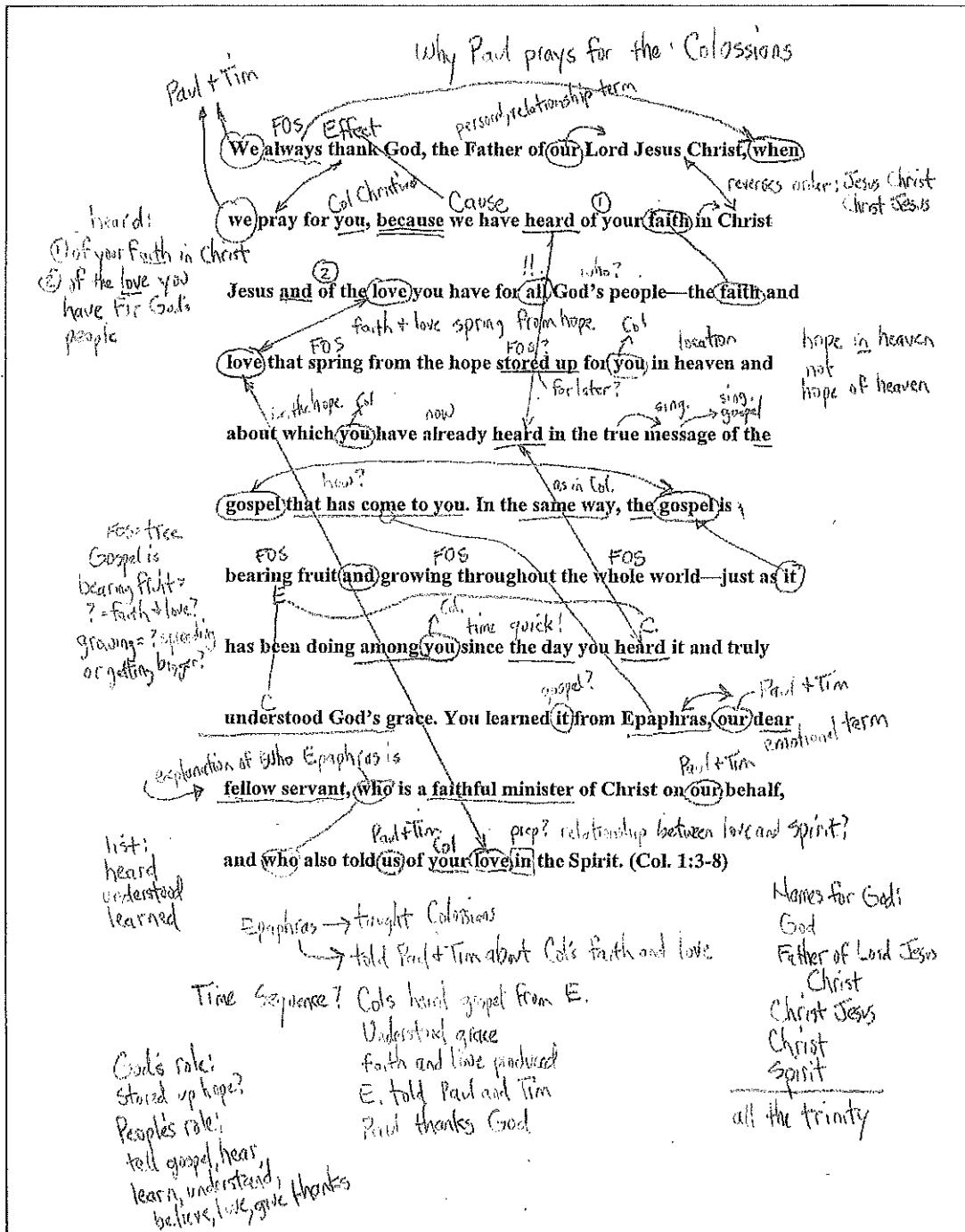
- Areas of life where you doubt God cares or is concerned
- How long do you wait to call out to Jesus when you are facing trials

# **ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES FROM GRASPING GOD'S WORD**

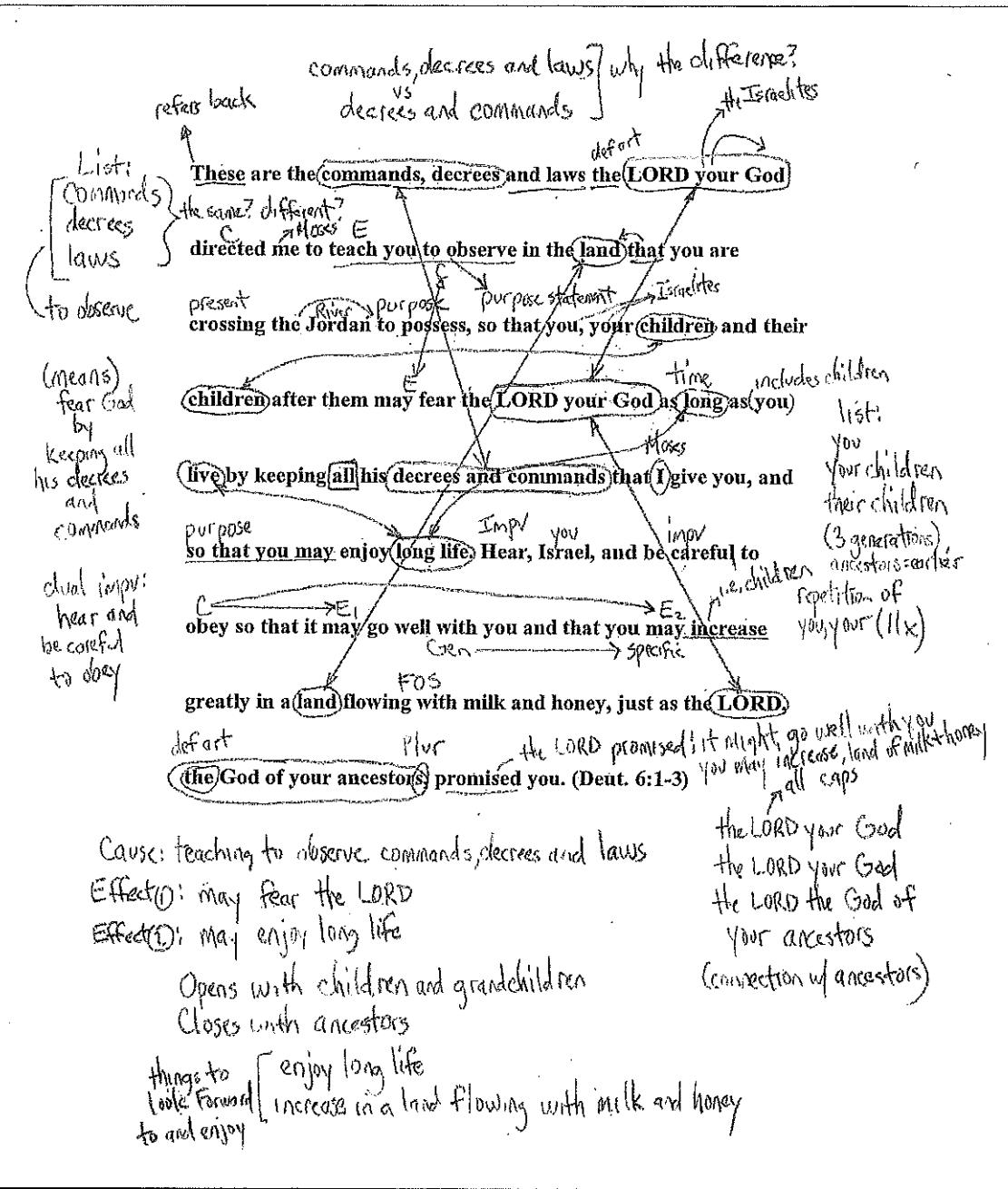


## Examples

The following example is from Colossians 1:3–8:



This next example is from Deuteronomy 6:1–3:



# **PRACTICE SHEETS**

# PSALM 1:1-6

'Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.'

# 1 JOHN 1:5-10

' This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light,

and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk

in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is

in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son

cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth

is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him

a liar, and his word is not in us.'

# ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

'Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the

judgments against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord , is in your midst;

you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The Lord your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal

with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes," says the Lord.'

# DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ’

# JOHN 2:13-22

' The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. '

# MATTHEW 8:23-27

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose

a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he

was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and

rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled,

saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

# **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

## BOOKS

- Duvall, J. Scott & Hays, J. Daniel. *Grasping God's Word*
- Fee, Gordon. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*
- Arthur, Kay. *How to Study Your Bible*
- McCaulley, Esau. *Reading While Black*
- McKnight, Scot. *The Blue Parakeet*
- Challies, Tim. *A Visual Theology Guide to The Bible*

## VIDEOS

- Conner, Yanna (Jude 3 Project). #bibletips w/Yanna Conner (youtube)
- Platt, David. *Secret Church 17: Scripture and Authority in an Age of Skepticism*
- Stanley, Andy. *The Bible for Grown Ups*
- Hendricks, Howard. *Living by the Book teaching series* (youtube)
- The Bible Project. *How to Read the Bible Series*

## PODCASTS

- The Jude 3 Project, Selected Episodes
  - Dr. Luke Bobo. *Interpreting Scripture 101*
  - Dr. Dennis Edwards. *Understanding the Bible*
  - Dr. Jo Vitale & Dr. Esau McCauley. *Problematic Passages in the Bible*
- Help Me Teach The Bible