HIGH-IMPACT
BIBLE STUDY

How to Gain Deeper Insight
in Shorter Time
for Greater Influence

MARK W. GAITHER
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Four-Step Bible Study Method

Step 1 Key Question: ________________________________

Step 2 Key Question: ________________________________

Step 3 Key Question: ________________________________

Step 4 Key Question: ________________________________
Step 1: Observation

“You can observe a lot by watching.”

–Yogi Berra

Key Question: “What does the text say?”
Matthew 26:36–46

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.” 39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? 41 Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.” 43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. 45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”
What to Observe

- Who is involved?
- Where are they?
- When does this occur?
  (Within the literature and in the Bible)
- What is the issue at hand?
- What is the genre? (Narrative, Poetry, Epistolary, Etc.)

Details to Observe

- Main Verbs (tense, voice, mood, number)
- Contrasting Conjunctions
- Repeated Words
- Unusual Words
- Cause-Effect Relationships
- Unusual Prepositions
- Structure
Inclusio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark 11:12–14</td>
<td>Jesus curses the non-fruit-bearing fig tree.</td>
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<td>Mark 11:15–19</td>
<td>Jesus cleanses the temple.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark 11:20–25</td>
<td>Return to the withered fig tree and Jesus’ discourse on faith.</td>
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Observing Matthew 26:36–46

Take 15 minutes to write down fifteen (15) individual observations from the passage.

1. 

2. 

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15. 
Step 2: Interpretation

“I really didn’t say all the things I said.”

–Yogi Berra

Key Question: “What does the text mean?”
Barriers to Interpretation (and Available Helps)

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<tr>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Helps</th>
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Important Terms in **Matt 26:36-46**

Term: **grieved**  Strong’s No. **3076**

Definition: **to be made sorry, to be sorry, to be sorrowful**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Strong’s No.</th>
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<td>distressed</td>
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<td>watch</td>
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<td>temptation</td>
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<td>willing</td>
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Important Terms in 

Term: weak  Strong’s No. 

Definition: 
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Term: fell  Strong’s No. 

Definition: 
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Term:  Strong’s No. 

Definition: 
____________________________________________________________________________
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Term:  Strong’s No. 

Definition: 
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Term:  Strong’s No. 

Definition: 
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

12
BIBLE DICTIONARIES, ENCYCLOPEDIAS, ATLAS, ETC.

GETHSEMANE (from Aram. gaṭ ṣemen 'an oil press'). A garden (kĕpos, Jn. 18:1), E of Jerusalem beyond the Kidron valley and near the Mount of Olives (Mt. 26:30). It was a favourite retreat frequented by Christ and his disciples, which became the scene of the agony, Judas' betrayal and the arrest (Mk. 14:32–52). It should probably be contrasted with Eden, as the garden where the second Adam prevailed over temptation. Christ's action in Gethsemane (Lk. 22:41) gave rise to the Christian custom of kneeling for prayer. The traditional Latin site lies E of the Jericho road-bridge over the Kidron, and contains olive trees said to date back to the 7th century AD. It measures 50 m square, and was enclosed with a wall by the Franciscans in 1848. It corresponds to the position located by Eusebius and Jerome, but is regarded by Thomson, Robinson and Barclay as too small and too near the road. The Greeks enclosed an adjacent site to the N. There is a broad area of land NE of the Church of St Mary where larger, more secluded gardens were put at the disposal of pilgrims, and Thomson locates the genuine site here. The original trees were cut down by Titus (Jos., BJ 5.523).


Step 3: Correlation

“I guess the best way to avoid mistakes is by not making them.”

–Yogi Berra

Key Question: “How does the text compare?”
Investigate

- Parallel passages, especially in the Gospels
- Quotations or allusions to other Scripture
- Passages related to the same topic
- Cross references suggested in study Bibles

Passage: **Matt 24:42**

Notes: **Same expression used by Jesus, warning everyone**
to be “on the alert” for His return.
Step 4: Application

“The future ain't what it used to be.”

–Yogi Berra

Key Question: “How does the text affect life?”
Three Statements

**Exegetical Statement:** A summary statement that condenses the passage of Scripture to one compound sentence.

**Theological Statement:** A statement of a timeless truth taught by the passage, which applies to all people, in all cultures, throughout all time.
Homiletical Statement: A suggested means of obeying the timeless truth taught in Scripture that is contextualized to fit the time, culture, and circumstances of the audience.

Nine Questions to Ask

- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there an error to mark?
- Is there a challenge to face?
Now, get specific.
## Appendices

### Bible Text

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<tr>
<td>NKJV Study Bible</td>
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<td>Phillips Translation</td>
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<td>The Message</td>
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<td><em>Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance (NASB)</em></td>
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Appendix B

*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance (NASB)*
FELL

veteran and his countenance f.
The rain f.upon the earth for
fled, and they f.into them.
down the country of Abram, Abram;
and great darkness f.upon them.
Abra f. his face, and God f.
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