

Biblical Interpretation Roadmap

Passage: _____

I Beginning the Journey

A *The social location of the reader and the reading community (factors related to this particular text):*

1

B *The Spheres of life and the particular issues raised:*

1

II Encountering the Biblical text

A *Personal Response*

1 Feelings this passage evokes:

a

2 How other people might feel about this text:

a

3 What is said and what is assumed or otherwise left unsaid:

a

4 “Speed Bumps” in the text:

i

5 Previous experience with the text or its themes:

a

6 Translation (differences in the wording, shades of meaning are hidden or introduced...):

a

B *Considering the Literary Context*

1 Structure of Passage (outline):

a

2 Is all or part of the material found elsewhere in the Bible?

a

3 In what Type of work is it found?

a

4 **The place and function of the passage in the biblical book which it is found (include what is the role of this passage in the book as a whole? How does the surrounding material influence what you perceive as the authors principal emphasis or concerns? What specific accents or concerns in the passage you are studying adds to the general agenda of the book in which it is found?):**

a

C *Locating the social context (historical concerns)*

1 **The life circumstances of the author(s) of the text:**

a

2 **The life circumstances of the readers to whom the work was initially addressed:**

a

3 **Relation of the specific passage to what the author is saying about a particular theological agenda:**

a

4 The author’s theological voice in the larger context of the Bible—both echoes and dissonance:

a

III Engaging the text, other readers, and our communities

A What conclusions does the author want you to reach by the end of the passage? Can you affirm the conclusion?

1

B How do (or might) other readers come to different conclusions (or make different responses) to the text?

1

C What is the importance of the passage in your own theology and ministry and in the life of your church (what insights does this passage give you about the nature of God, Christ, the gospel, the word, or what it means to be human?)

1

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