

APPLICATION: Step by Step

Bible books boil down to 2 formats:

- *Stories* that unfold one event at a time, in the order events happen
- *Explanations* that unfold one thought at a time, in the order the writer arranged them

Stories develop 3 ways. They:

- *Add* something
- *Fill in* missing details
- *Bring out* something you couldn't see any other way

Explanations usually

- *Begin* with a capital letter
- *End* with a period

Once you locate a principle or a precept, subject its verse(s) to the application process

In a **STORY**, if the verse you study:

- **Adds to what came before**, it probably shares a precept or principle with the previous verse
- **Fills in missing details**, it probably shares a precept or principle with the verse that it fills in
- **Brings out something you couldn't see without it**, it probably does not share a precept or principle with any others, because it has one of its' own

Step 1: Determine the verse(s) you want to apply

Stories: check whether the verse or verses add, fill in, or bring out

Explanations: Include all verses between capital letter and period

Gen. 39:11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work.

Gen. 39:12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

Step 2: Identify the Author's Point-of-View

Look for **positive** or **negative** words that indicate what the author **thinks** about **the topic, his audience and their situation, or others and their situation.**

Positive: he's in favor of it

Negative: he's against it

Negative

Step 3: Identify the Author's Purpose

As you read the text, ask yourself:

- Is he trying to tell me something I need to know?
- Is he trying to teach me something I need to learn?
- Is he urging me to accept, believe, or do something that I should?

Purpose is the key to application

Purpose	Reason	Goal	Outcome
Inform	To tell	Familiarize	To know
Educate	To teach	Train Instruct	To learn
Persuade	To urge	Performance	Accept, do

Purpose	What the Writer Expects
Inform	To <i>adopt</i> what he says—to take up a plan, idea, cause, or practice from what he says—and follow it
Educate	To <i>adapt</i> to what he says—to undergo transformation or to modify something—according to what he says
Persuade	To <i>adjust</i> to what he says—to make whatever changes it takes to better fit or to act more consistent with—what he says

Step 4: Strip away what the writer added to the precept or principle

Ask:

- *Who or what is universal?*
- *Who or what is not?*

- *What universal terms can replace them?*

So, **get rid of** any *specific* people, places, and things in the situation — but keep references to *already timeless* people, places, or things— like God, Jesus, earth, heaven, the everlasting covenant, etc.

Replace *specifics* with *generic* terms that apply to *anyone, anytime, anywhere*

Reword the verse(s) and state the timeless truth.

The verse(s) will now sound like the precept or principle on which the writer based it.

Whenever no one else is around and you try to go on with business as usual and temptation knocks, you should reject it, but never leave any suggestive evidence behind, or run from the scene.

Step 5: Find the precept or principle:

PURPOSE	EXPECT TO FIND
INFORM	Examples to follow Reasons for thanks/praise
EDUCATE	Something to learn about A sin to avoid or confess
PERSUADE	A command to obey A promise to claim

Step 6: Connect what you find with what's happening in your life