

## THE INTERROGATIVE STUDY METHOD

**I. PURPOSE:** The purpose of the interrogative study is to ask questions about the text, topic, situations and characters in an effort to find answers that will bring deeper meaning and personal application of the scripture.

It is very important that you stay within the context and intended meaning of the text as you ask your questions. In most cases, the scripture gives enough information to make the main point, but leaves a lot open to the imagination when it comes to details. Asking questions can get you thinking about new things you never saw before, but you must be careful not to take too much liberty. Maintain the integrity of the Word.

### II. PROCEDURE

**A. Read the passage.**

**B. Look back through the passage and ask questions like these:**

1. Who are the main characters?
2. How old are the characters? (If it doesn't say, "guesstimate")
3. What are the character's relationship(s) like?
  - a. Are they related? How?
  - b. Are they friends? (Do they like/love each other? How can you tell?)
  - c. Are they enemies? (Are they mad at each other? Suspicious of one another? Jealous of one another? etc. How can you tell?)
  - d. Are they strangers?
4. Character development: What do you think the characters are like?
  - a. Describe their personalities. Are they happy? sad? mean? impatient? kind? generous? rude/insulting? greedy? immature? etc.
  - b. Describe their spiritual characteristics. Do they love God or not? How can you tell? (Are they spiritually "open" or "closed"?)
  - c. Who would you compare them to? (Do they remind you of anyone else either past or present?)
  - d. Who do you relate to/like most? Why?
  - e. Who do you relate to/like least? Why?
  - f. If you could put some of the different characters in a contemporary setting, what do you imagine they would be like? How would they dress? Where would they live? What kind of car would they drive? What kind of house would they live in? Etc.

**5. Imagine you are the character(s). Read back through the text. Stop at different places along the way and ask:**

**a. What were they feeling? (empathy is the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes.)**

**b. What were they thinking?**

**c. Why did they do the things they did?**

**d. How did their decisions affect the other characters?**

**e. How/why were they different because of what happened? (Are they the same at the end of the story as they were at the beginning?)**

**f. What did they learn?**

**C. What did you learn? Summarize:**

**1. What do you think is the main point/lesson/truth of the story?**

**2. What things did you learn from analyzing each character? (Talk/think about each character individually and what they taught you.)**

**3. What is God saying to you right now?**

**4. What would you like to say to God right now?**