

The Six Steps

One-page summary · all six steps and the questions to ask at each one · keep it next to your Bible

Work it in order. Keep your own Bible open — this sheet never prints the passage, because step one is your step.

The worksheet version, with room to write at every question, is on the same page: bibleconnectionswithjoseph.com/companions/six-steps/

Passage and setup

- What passage are you working on?
- Who are you teaching it to, and when?
- Before you study anything: what do you already think this passage means? Write it down now, honestly, so you can catch yourself later.

1 • Read It

- Can you say what the passage is doing, not just what it says? Is it a promise, a warning, a story, a psalm, a piece of somebody's mail? Put it in your own words in one sentence.
- What is the sentence before this passage, and the sentence after? Do they change how it reads?
- Is there anything here you skipped because you already knew it? Go back to that part.

2 • Cross Over

- Who wrote it? To whom?
- What was happening to those people when it landed in their hands? What pressure were they under?
- What kind of writing is this — narrative, poetry, law, letter, prophecy, wisdom? And what does that genre do with promises?
- What contextual knowledge did they have that you and I never once thought of?

3 • Stand in Their World

- You are in the room when this is first read aloud. What do you feel?
- Who in that room would find this hard to hear, and why?
- What would they have assumed that you do not?

4 • Verify It

- What else in Scripture says something similar? Give the reference, and say what it adds.
- What in Scripture makes your reading harder? Name it.
- Is this passage contested? Do careful readers disagree about it? If so, what are the positions — and are you about to teach one of them as settled?
- Make no assumptions. What did you assume going in that the text does not actually say?

5 • Come Back

- Say what this passage means in one sentence, in words you would use with a friend who has never been to church.
- What did you believe about this passage before you started that you no longer believe?
- Compare this to what you wrote at the very top. What changed?

6 • Carry It Home

- What does this ask of you, specifically, this week?
- And how does that point you to Jesus?
- If you are teaching this: what is the one thing you want the room to leave with?
- What will you NOT say, because you cannot support it?