

The Interpretive Journey

Step 1: Grasping the Text in Their Town

Question: What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

Step 2: Measuring the Width of the River to Cross

Question: What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

Step 3: Crossing the Principlizing Bridge

Question: What is the theological principle in the text?

Formulating a Theological Principle

1. The principle should be reflected in the text
2. The principle should be timeless and not tied to a specific situation
3. The principle should not be culturally bound
4. The principle should correspond to the teaching of the rest of scripture
5. The principle should be relevant to both the biblical and contemporary audience

Step 4: Consult the Biblical Map

Question: How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

Step 5: Grasping the Text in Our Town

Question: How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles?