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### Instructions for Bookmark:

1. Print this sheet out (on cardstock, if you have it)
2. Trim at crop lines
3. Fold on dotted line
4. Insert into Bible
5. Be transformed by God's Word!

## interpretation

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?



1. Develop some **questions** based on the text. Ask what is the significance of your main observations and why they happened.
2. Imagine the **perspective** of the people in the scene. If Jesus spoke, why did he say what he said?
3. **Answer** the questions from the text and the context.
4. Try to **summarize** the passage in one sentence. What is the **main point** the author is communicating to the audience?

## application

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN FOR ME?



1. How do you **respond** to what this passage is saying? Does it challenge how you see the world?
2. Is there a central truth that you need to **put into practice**?
3. What are the **implications** of the passage for the **community** of which you are a part?
4. **Pray** that God will help you believe and obey.

for more Bible study resources, go to: [intervarsity.org/bible-studies](http://intervarsity.org/bible-studies)

## INTERVARSITY

*brief*  
a guide to  
**INDUCTIVE  
BIBLE STUDY**

pray 

ASK THE SPIRIT TO  
GUIDE YOUR STUDY

## Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?



1. Ask **investigative questions**:
  - **Who** is speaking? Who are the main people? Who is being spoken to?
  - **What** is happening? What is the scene? What is the cultural context of the passage?
  - **Where** is the passage taking place?
  - **When** did or will the events take place?
  - **How** did people respond? How did Jesus react?
2. Look for **grammatical connections**: repeated words, comparisons, contrast, cause and effect.
3. Identify **key words** and phrases.
4. Note **verb tenses**.
5. Look for **conjunctions** such as *since* and *therefore*. Why are those words in the sentence?

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