

ADVANCE PREPARATION

Getting Your Head Around the Book as a Whole



Objective:

Orient yourself to the Bible book as a whole and distribute the teaching portions for the series.

Mile-Marker:

To have a collection of notes that summarize the most important information about the circumstances of the original readers and the reasons why the author wrote, along with a distribution of teaching portions for the series that is based on an understanding of the structure of the book as a whole.

Task 1. Begin Repeated Panoramic Reading

Begin your preparation for any series with an initial voluminous reading of the biblical book in question and then transition that reading into a habit of reading the book as a whole many times throughout the series.

To do: (1) Develop a reading plan, and (2) Put it into action.

Task 2. Record Initial Observations and Questions

Write down the observations and questions you have as you carry out your repeated reading of the Bible book you are studying.

To do: (1) Develop a note-taking system. (2) Use it.

Task 3. Gather and Organize Necessary Resources

Gather and organize the resources necessary to develop the series in the best possible way.

To do: Make a list of the articles and books that you will use in your study.

Task 4. Research and Summarize Introductory Information

Summarize basic background information about the book based on your reading and study of various introductory articles (study Bibles, dictionaries, encyclopedias, commentaries, etc.).

To do: (1) Research and annotate the introductory information about the book: Author, date of composition, recipients, circumstances, literary genre, themes, theological emphases, structure, etc. (2) Write a didactic summary of your research for “repeated future use”.

Task 5. Outline the Book’s Flow of Thought

Diagram or outline the book’s flow of thought together with its main arguments.

Task 6. Distribute the Teaching Portions for the Series

Distribute the portions according to the requirements of the series to be preached or taught (respecting, as much as possible, the structure of the biblical text).