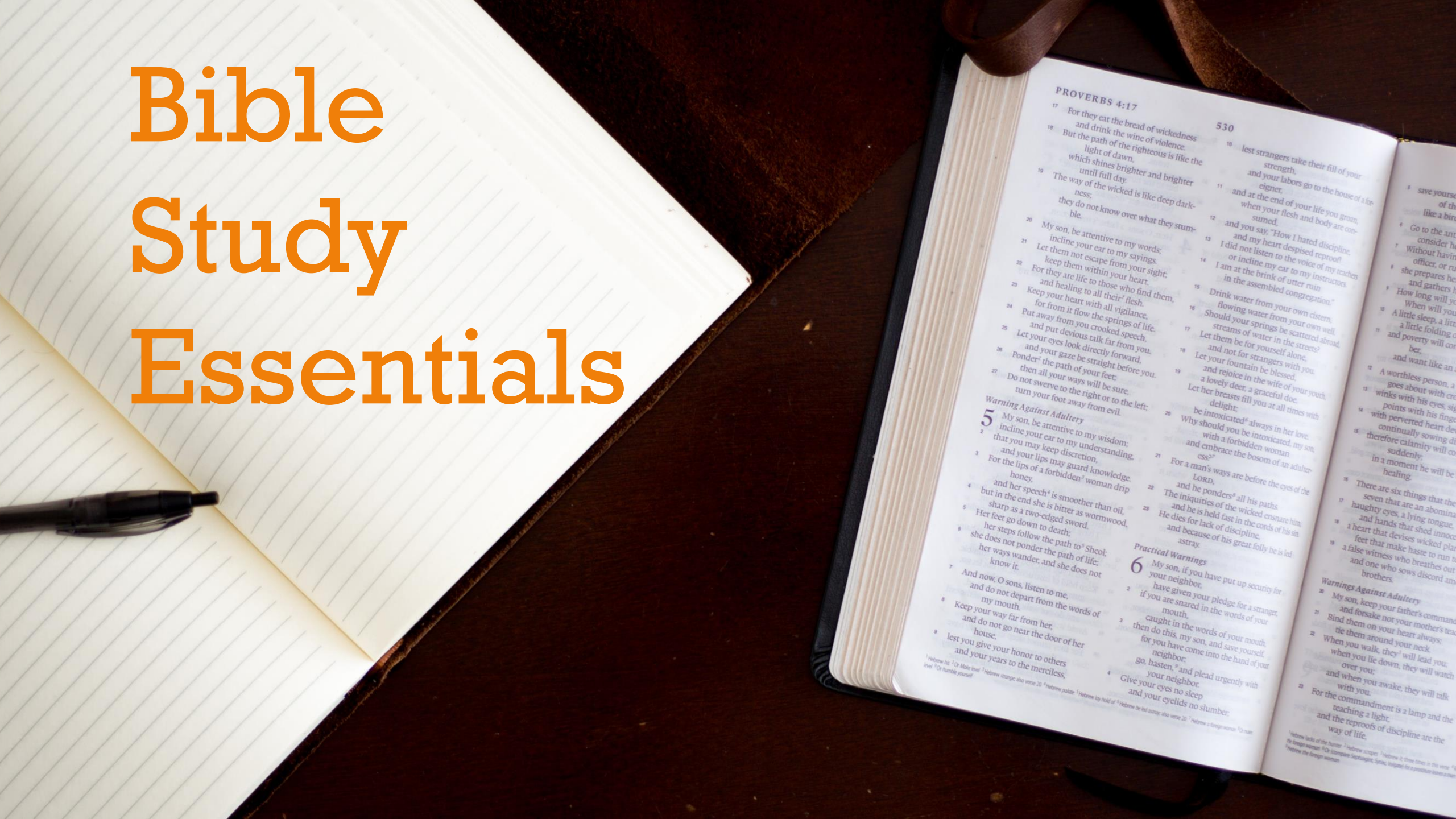
Bible Study Essentials



Roadmap

Goals for this workshop:

- ✓Understand various ways to approach the Bible
- ✓Define and understanding the role of hermeneutics for personal or group bible study
- ✓Eliminate ignorance, fear, and/or excuses about personal bible study
- ✓Introduce and learn a simple process for reading, interpreting, and applying Scripture

Various Approaches to the Bible

- ✓Hearing
- ✓Reading
- ✓Studying
- ✓Meditating (Reflection on it and praying it)
- ✓Memorizing

- ✓Read for breadth; study for depth.

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓**<u>Biblical Hermeneutics</u>** = the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible.

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓**Essential Laws of Hermeneutics:**
  - ✓The Bible should be interpreted literally (unless the passage is obviously intended to by symbolic or if figures of speech are being used).
  - ✓The Bible must be interpreted historically, grammatically, and contextually. (culture, background, grammar, etc.)
  - ✓Scripture is always the best interpreter of Scripture.

Hermeneutics 101

Presuppositions for Interpretation of Scripture:

- ✓The Bible is one unified story written and inspired by one Author (God).
- ✓The Bible is primarily all about Jesus. He is the thread that ties every book together.
- ✓The Bible is our highest authority *(Sola Scriptura)* :
  - ✓Over personal experience
  - ✓Over reason
  - ✓Over tradition

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓ **<u>Resources for further study:</u>**
  - ✓ *Grasping God's Word* by Duvall & Hays
  - ✓ *Living by the Book* by Howard Hendricks
  - ✓ *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓ Basic Hermeneutic Process: **COMA**
  - ✓ **C**ontext
  - ✓ **O**bservation
  - ✓ **M**eaning
  - ✓ **A**pplication

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓ Basic Hermeneutic Process:
  - ✓ **Context:** what is the literary structure/form (letter, narrative, poem, prophetic)? Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written? What has happened so far?
    - ✓ Ex. Matthew 18:20
    - ✓ Ex. Rev. 3:20
    - ✓ Ex. Jer. 29:11
    - ✓ Ex. Phil. 4:13
  - ✓ **Observation**: what is the main point? What did the text mean to the original audience? What surprises are there? What are the key words? Are there words or ideas repeated? Themes? People, places, geography, history, etc. Grammatical structure (subject, object, verb).

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓ Basic Hermeneutic Process:
  - ✓ **Meaning**: What is the timeless truth in the text? How does this text relate to other parts of the book, the testament, and the whole of the Bible? How does this passage relate to Jesus? What does this teach us about God?
    - ✓ **How do I know I have identified a correct timeless principle/truth?**
      - ✓ Principles should correlate with the general teaching of Scripture
      - ✓ Principles should speak to the needs, interests, questions, and problems of real life today.
      - ✓ Principles should indicate a course of action.
      - ✓ Principles should be supported by other godly people.

Hermeneutics 101

- ✓ Basic Hermeneutic Process:
  - ✓ **Application**: how should the text change my view of God and myself? How does this passage challenge (or confirm) my understanding? Is there an attitude or behavior I need to change? How does this passage call on me to change the way I live? What does the text demand of my life?
  - ✓ Know the Text
  - ✓ Know yourself (Romans 12:3, 1 Timothy 4:16)
  - ✓ Relate the Truth of the Word to your experience (2 Cor. 5:17)
    - ✓ How does this passage relate to:
      - ✓ Your relationship with God?
      - ✓ Your view of yourself and your personal identity?
      - ✓ Your relationship with other people?
      - ✓ Your relationship to the Enemy?

Hermeneutics 101

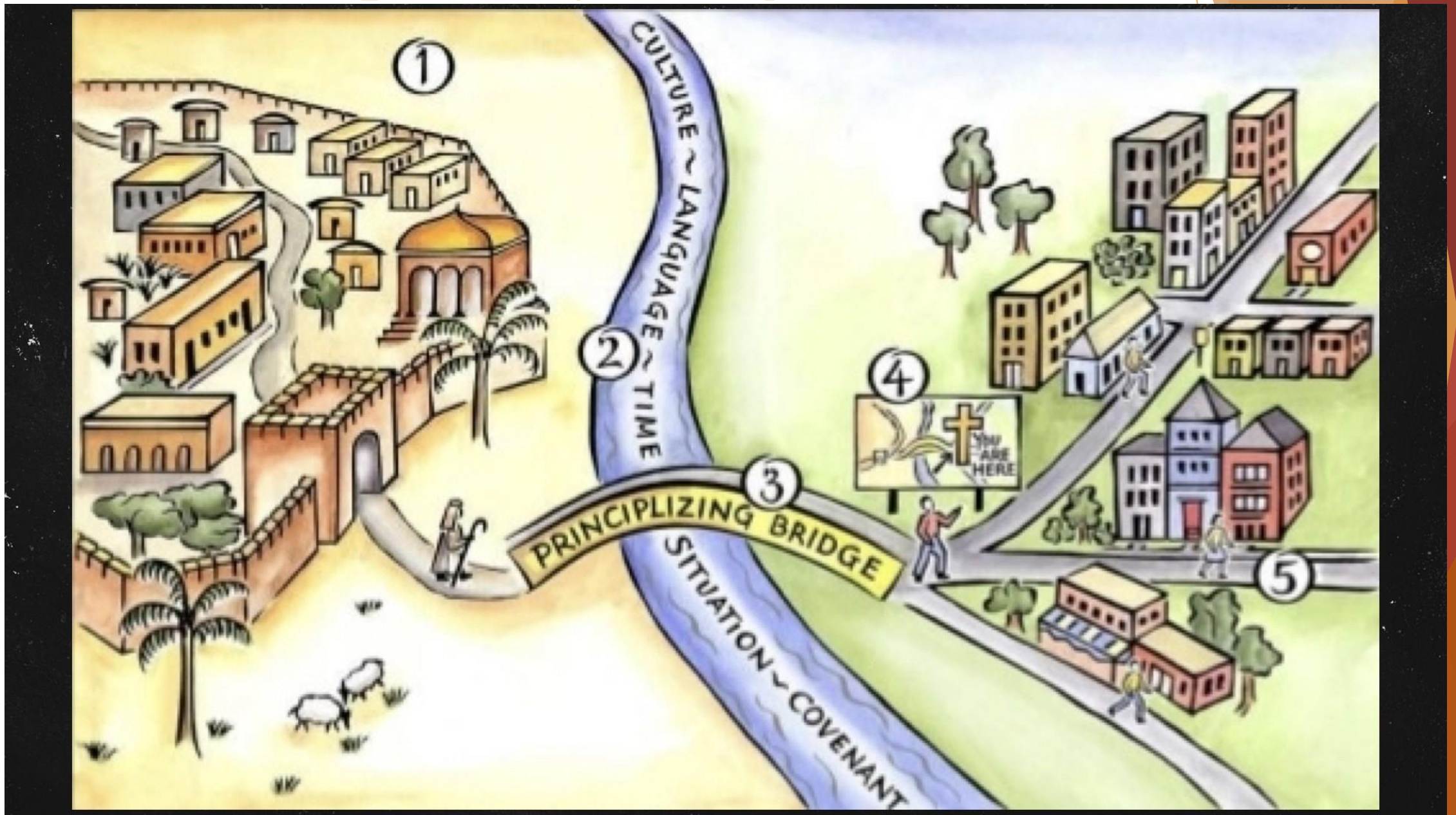
- ✓ Basic Hermeneutic Process:
  - ✓ **Application**: how should the text change my view of God and myself? How does this passage challenge (or confirm) my understanding? Is there an attitude or behavior I need to change? How does this passage call on me to change the way I live? What does the text demand of my life?
    - ✓ Meditate on and Memorize Scripture (Psalm 1:1-2)
    - ✓ Practice! (Your hunger for the Word will be in direct proportion to your obedience to it) Is there:
      - ✓ An example to follow?
      - ✓ A sin to avoid?
      - ✓ A prayer to repeat?
      - ✓ A command to obey?
      - ✓ A condition to meet?
      - ✓ A challenge to face?

Hermeneutics 101

5 Substitutes for Proper Application (by Howard Hendricks)

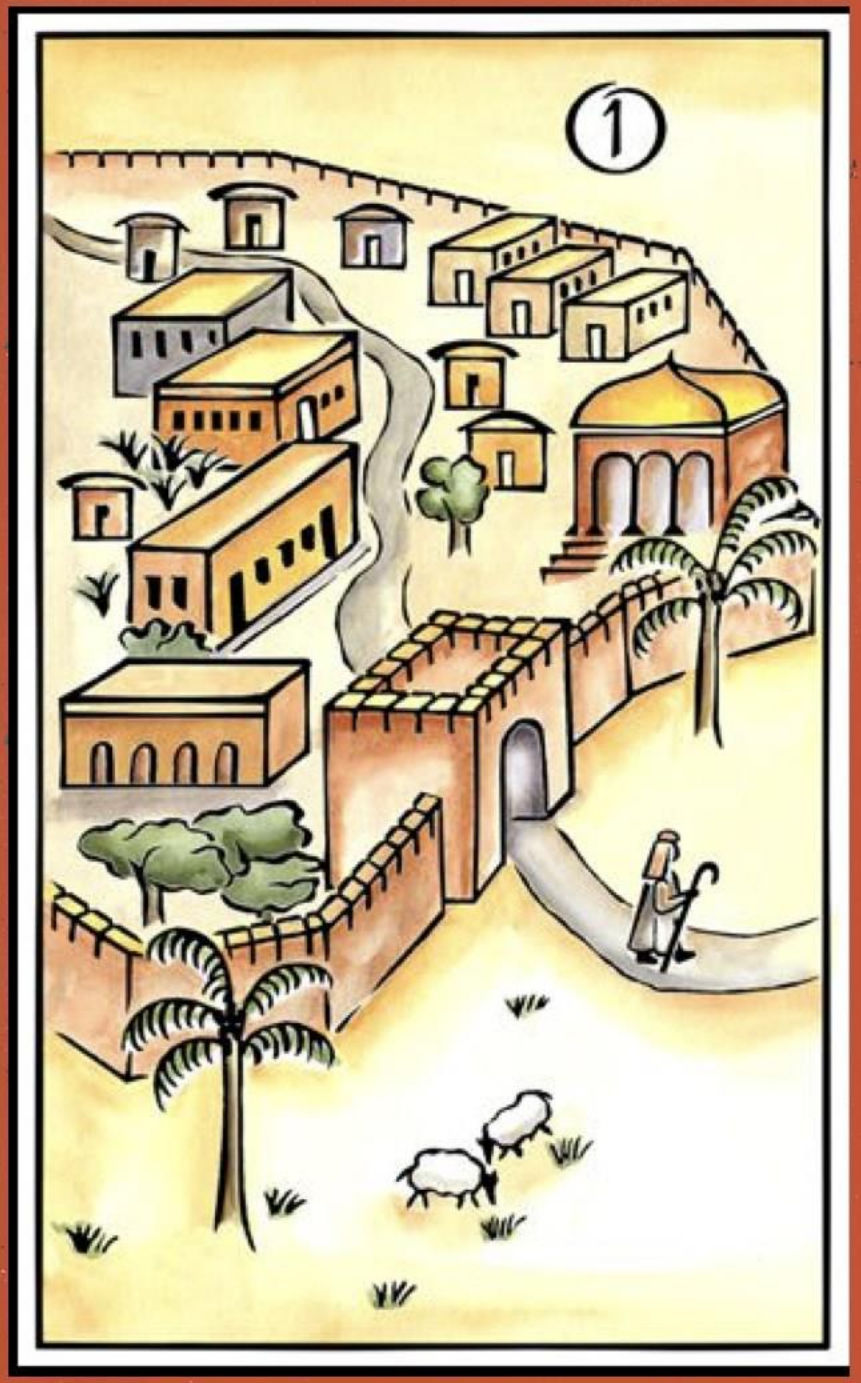
- ✓ **We substitute interpretation for application** (We tend to settle for knowledge rather than experience. According to the Bible, to "know" and not do is to not know at all.)
- ✓ **We substitute superficial obedience for substantive life-change.**
- ✓ **We substitute rationalization for repentance**. (Our favorite strategy is to rationalize sin rather than repenting of it.)
- ✓ **We substitute an emotional experience for a volitional decision**. (Real life change begins with volition – an act of the will. Are we willing to make life-changing decisions based on what the Scriptures say?)
- ✓ **We substitute communication for transformation.** (We talk the talk but we don't walk the walk. Transformation will never take place if we evade the convicting stab of Scripture by hiding behind our "talk")

"The Interpretive Journey"



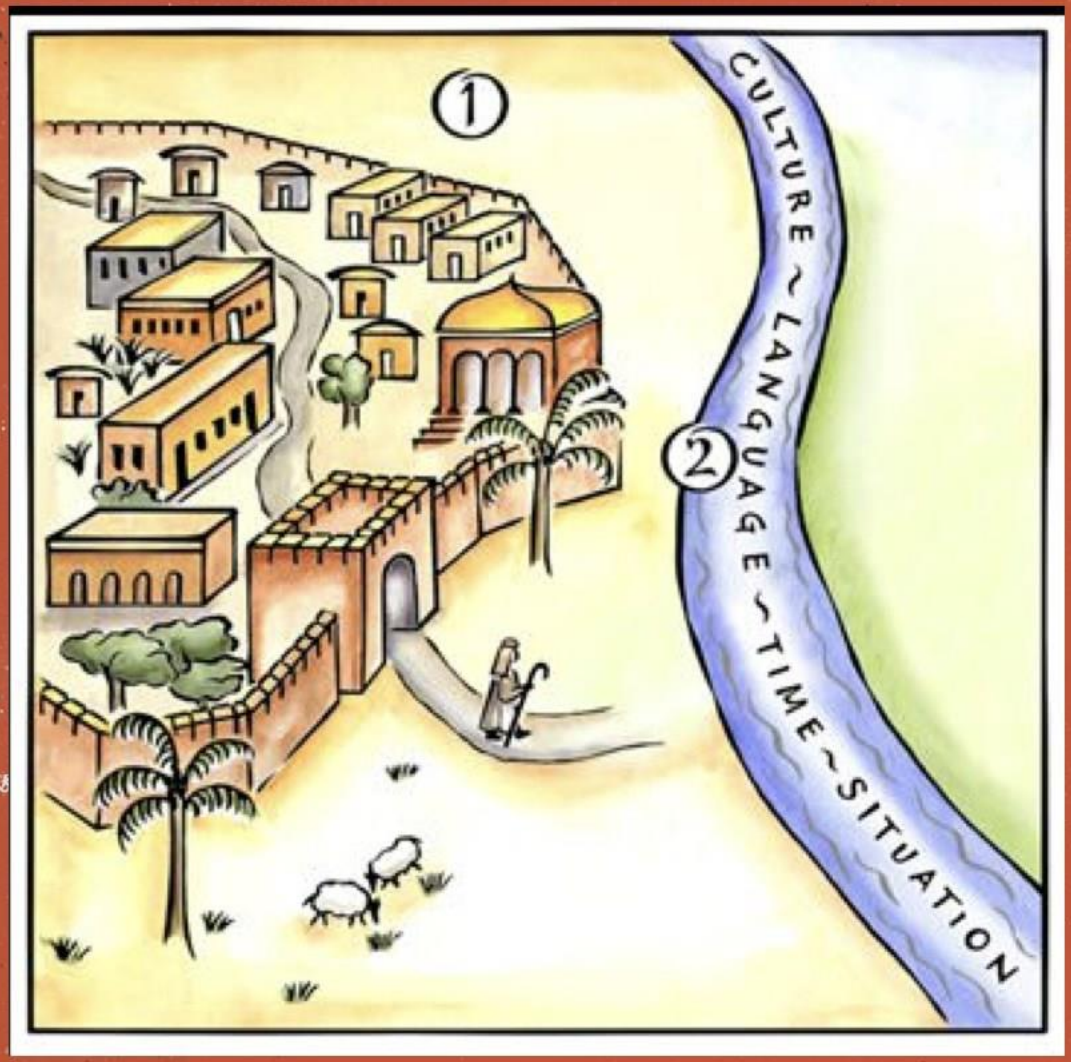
1. GRASPING THE TEXT IN THEIR TOWN

WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?



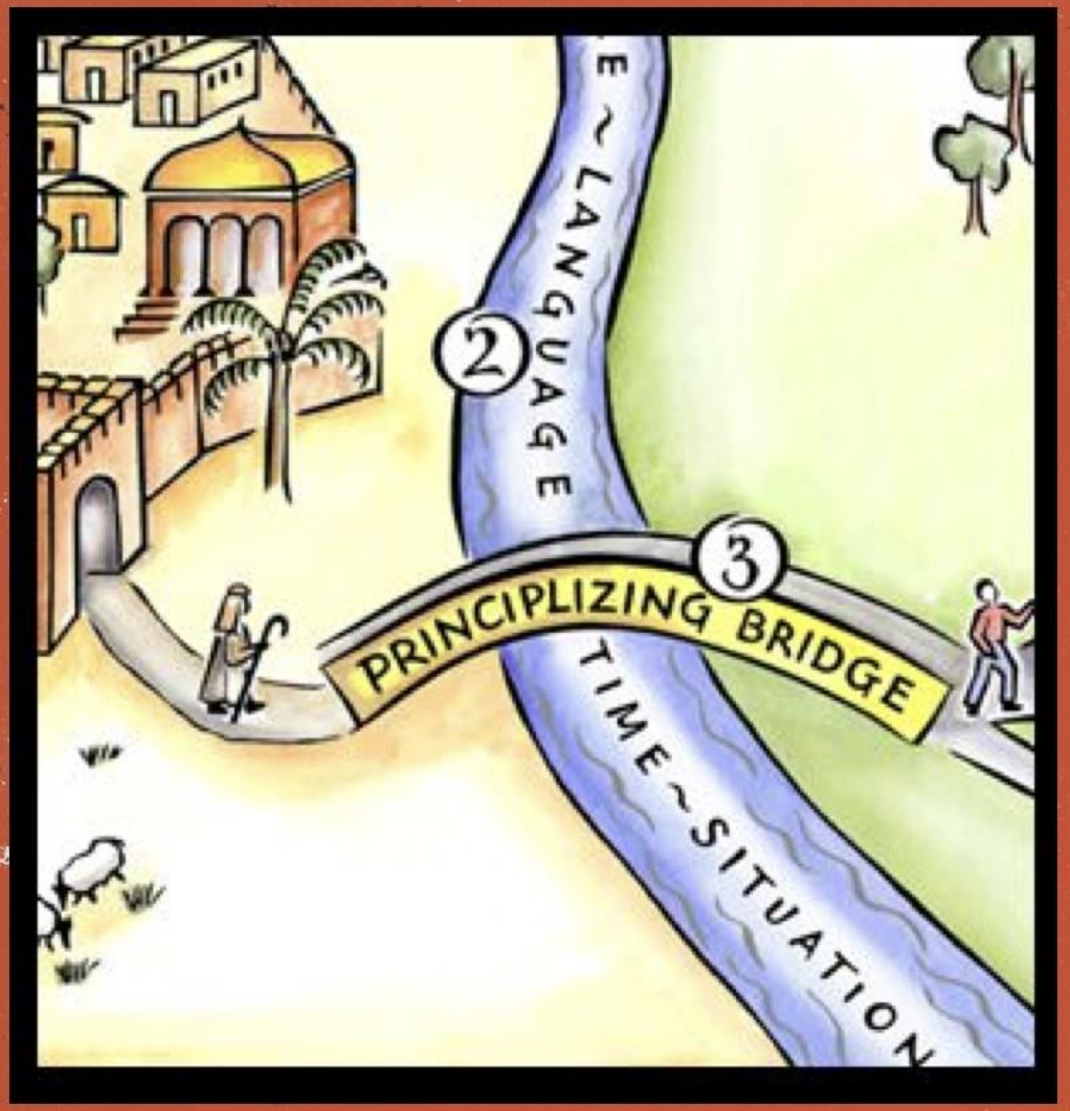
2. MEASURING THE WIDTH OF THE RIVER TO CROSS

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BIBLICAL AUDIENCE AND US?



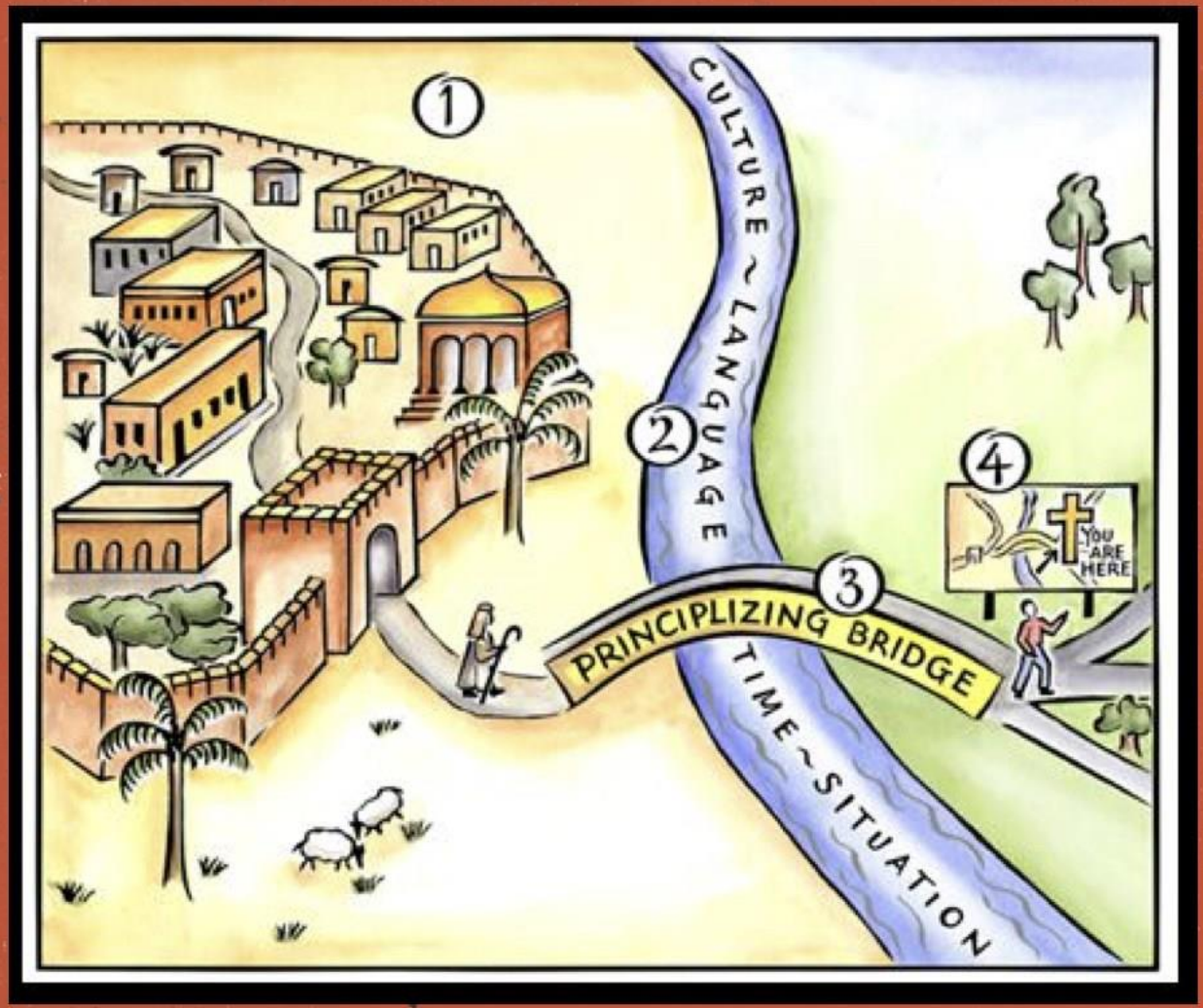
3. CROSSING THE PRINCIPLIZING BRIDGE

WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE IN THE TEXT?



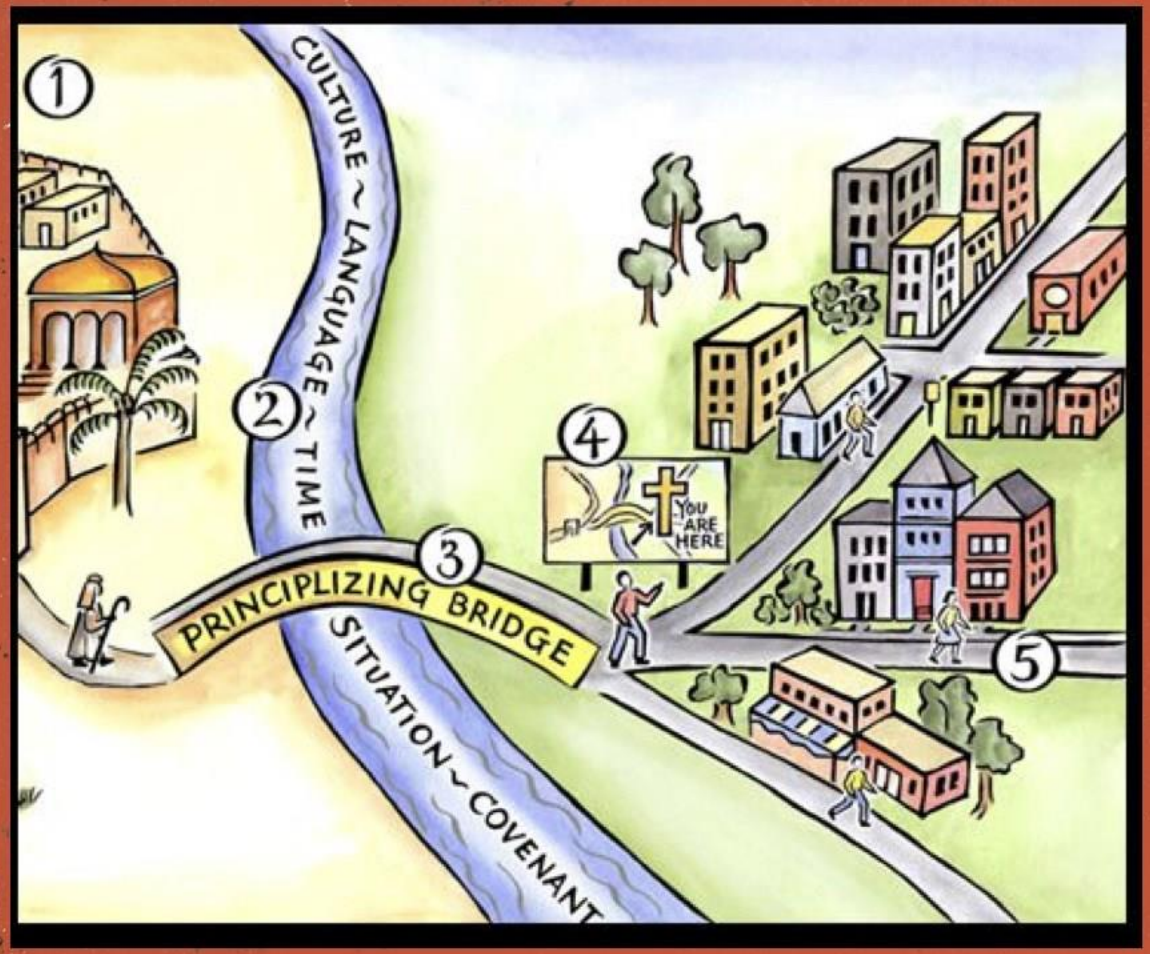
4. CONSULT THE BIBLICAL MAP

HOW DOES OUR THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE FIT WITH THE REST OF THE BIBLE?

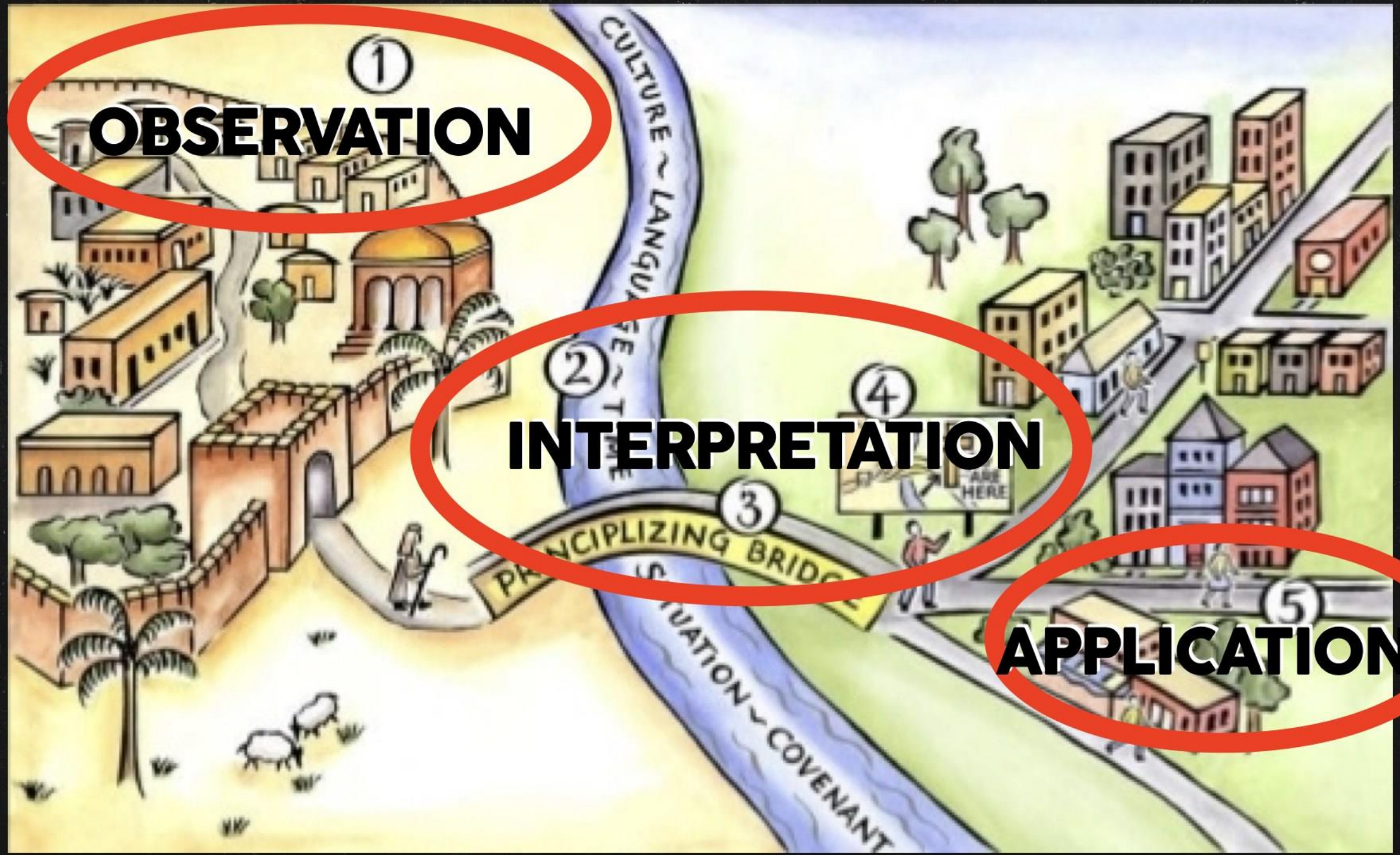


5. GRASPING THE TEXT IN OUR TOWN

HOW SHOULD INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS TODAY LIVE OUT THE THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES?



1
CULTURE ~ LANGUAGE ~ TIME
2
3
PRINCIPLIZING BRIDGE
SITUATION ~ COVEN
4
YOU ARE HERE
5


1
OBSERVATION
2
INTERPRETATION
3
4
5
APPLICATION
CULTURE ~ LANGUAGE ~ TIME
PRINCIPLIZING BRIDGE
SITUATION ~ COVENANT
ARE HERE