

# THE COMMA METHOD FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

In each section, pick **one or two** questions as you walk people through each step. For more resources, visit [BibleSavvy.com](http://BibleSavvy.com).

## CONTEXT: WHAT IS AROUND THE PASSAGE?

- Watch the summary video for the book from the Bible Project.
- Immediate Context: What is going on before/after this passage?
- Literary Context: What kind of literature (genre) is this?
- Historical Context: Audience? Reason it was written? What do we know about author?
- Theological Context: Where is this passage placed within the larger story of the Bible?

## OBSERVATIONS: WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Print out a copy of the passage for each person. Read the passage out loud. Before discussing it, give everyone 2-3 minutes to mark up the passage with any observations or questions.
- Who? What? Where? When?
- What theme(s) emerge?
- What are some repeating words or ideas?
- What characteristics of God and/or tendencies of humans do we see?
- Anything jump out at you or any questions that need to be answered?

## MESSAGE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- What would have been the message to the original readers? What situations would be similar or different today? What message would carry over to today?
- What does this passage tell us about who God is or what he has done?
- Are there any promises to find hope in? (Hint: Most OT promises are for Israel and not the NT Church.)
- How does the passage expect humans to respond (i.e. trust, obey, imitate, follow, rest in etc.)?
- Summarize a message based on your observations of this passage in one simple sentence.

## MEDITATION: HOW IS GOD SPEAKING TO YOU?

- Have a few separate people read the passage out loud. After each time, pause and listen to God.
- If it is a story or poetry, use your imagination to picture the scene/imagery as it is read out loud.
- Pray short prayers of praise or thanks using themes or words of the passage.
- Ask God to use passage as a mirror for your own heart to show anything you need to confess.

## APPLICATION: HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

- What is a specific, personal action you can take in response to this message?
- For messages about God/what he's done: How can you thank, praise, or trust him in response?
- For messages about God's expectations: What needs to change in your life to make it happen?
- How should this message change what you think? How you feel? What you do?
- What do you need to surrender to God to God's authority for this to happen?
- What should you pray for God to do in you to make this application possible?
- What do you need other people to do to help you follow through on this application?
- What new habits would help make this change stick?



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