

## PRINCIPLE ONE: Stop and Listen

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### What does it mean to “Stop and Listen”?

Before digging into the details of some book of the Bible or particular passage, it’s helpful to read it beginning to end.

While a few books of the Bible are more difficult to read this way (i.e. Psalms and the latter sections of Proverbs), the majority of the Bible’s books, and certainly the passages within them, were meant for just that. So, it’s helpful to take the time to just “stop and listen.”



### What to be looking for?

While reading, keep these key questions in mind. Try to answer them without the help of commentaries or other aids, writing down verse references.

1. What can you tell about who wrote this, who it was written for, and who it was written about? When it was written, and why it was written?
2. What type of writing has the author chosen to communicate through? How is this book or passage different from or similar to other books and passages in the Bible?
3. How does the book or passage begin? How does it end?
4. What are the major sections of the book or passage? Where do the major shifts or transitions in thought/plot occur?
5. What words, concepts, and themes are repeated?
6. What comparisons and/or contrasts does the author draw?
7. Where is the climax of the book or passage? How do you know?

### How to dig deeper?

After reading through a book of the Bible or particular passage, there are a few questions that will help you dig deeper.

1. What is the main question the author of this book or passage is trying to address? What is its main idea or overarching message?
2. How does this book or passage fit into the larger story of the Bible?
3. How does the message of this book or passage point forward to or reflect back on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

As you read, keep a list of your own questions to answer along the way.

### Questions to Consider:

Read the book of Jonah at least three times.

Use this space to record your observations.

Now dig a little deeper.

From your observations, what is the main idea or overarching message of the book of Jonah?

How does the message of Jonah point forward to Jesus?