

DAY THREE

EXPLAIN

Today we are going to continue working through the HEAR acronym with "E". At this stage, you will explain what the text means. By asking simple questions, with the Lord's help, you can understand the meaning of a passage or verse. We recommend a good study Bible like the ESV Study Bible to help you with this step.

Here are some general questions to start with as you explain what you highlighted:

WHY WAS THIS WRITTEN?

I start with my ESV Study Bible and read the introduction to the book of Psalms. This book is a compilation of songs and prayers. Like modern day music, these songs range in emotive responses to various life stages. They have been shared with us so we can be encouraged, be comforted, celebrate, or mourn with hope in the Lord.

TO WHOM WAS IT ORIGINALLY WRITTEN?

Each psalm has a different audience and circumstance, but they were mostly written for the people of Israel. Often an individual wrote a psalm to the Lord, then shared it corporately with the people to be sung.

HOW DOES IT FIT WITH THE VERSES BEFORE AND AFTER IT?

The book of Psalms is part of the wisdom literature found in the Old Testament: Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs. Psalm 19 was written by David most likely during David's struggles with Saul.

WHY DID THE HOLY SPIRIT INCLUDE THIS PASSAGE?

Psalm 19 provides us with hope, encouragement, and wisdom.

WHAT DOES HE INTEND TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH THIS TEXT?

God can be known through His creation and His Word.

DO YOU NEED TO USE A DICTIONARY OR THESAURUS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ANY WORDS?

From the two verses I chose to examine (v. 1, 8), I noted the word “precepts” and found that synonyms include commandment, doctrine, or edict. Therefore, substituting “commands” for “precepts” gave me: the commands of the Lord are pure. This brought additional clarity as I examined the verse.

YOUR TURN TO EXPLAIN:

Turn to page 19 and beside the "E" answer the following questions about Psalm 19:1-14:

- Why was Psalm 19 written?
- To whom was Psalm 19 originally written?
- How do verses 12-14 fit with verses 1-11?
- Why did the Holy Spirit include this psalm in the book?
- What is He intending to communicate through this psalm?
- Do you need to use a dictionary or thesaurus to better understand any words?

At this point, you are beginning the process of discovering the specific and personal message that God has for you from His Word. What is important is that you are engaging the text and wrestling with its meaning.