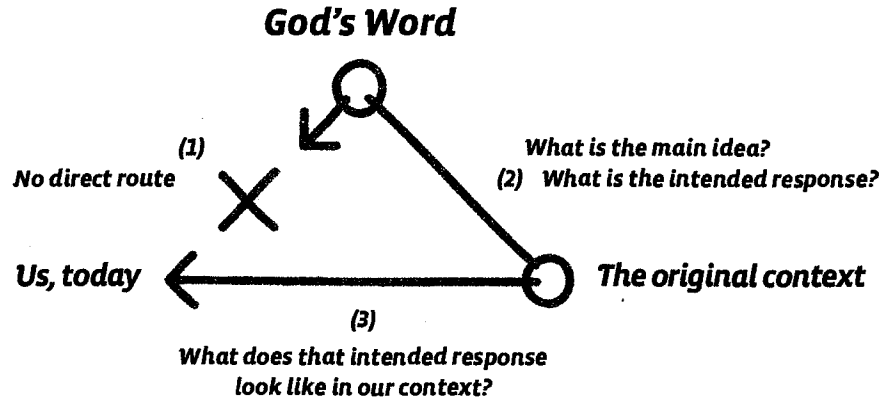


Dig & Discover Principles

1. Staying on the Line
2. Text & Framework
3. Asking Good Questions
4. Genre
5. Biblical Theology
6. Structure
7. Finding the Main Idea & Intended Response
8. Traveling Instructions

Traveling Instructions*



The Principle:

- In order for us to understand how to apply God's Word to our lives today, we first need to travel back to understand the message expressed through the author in the original context.

How Does Traveling Instructions Work?

- (1) **Not Taking the Direct Route.** We are often tempted to read God's Word and try to apply what is said directly to our lives. But God first spoke through the heart of an author to readers in a different time and place. And so, instead of taking a direct route from God's Word to our lives today, we first need to travel back to consider what that author was saying to the original readers, and why.
- (2) **Hearing the Intent of the Author.** We must travel back to listen to what God was saying through an author in the original context – the literary context of the message of the book, the historical context of the background situation, and even the biblical context of the overall story and message of the Bible. And while there are many aspects of context which we could explore, we want to focus our attention on those aspects which help us understand what the author was saying, why he said this to these people, and what response he desired from his message.
- (3) **Applying the Message to Us Today.** The end goal of Traveling Instructions is application. After we have discovered the author's intended response to the message he gave, we can then travel to our day and ask how that response would be seen in our lives and in the lives of the people where we live and minister.

Why Is Traveling Instructions Important?

- If we take the shortcut and try to immediately apply God's Word to our lives, we risk misinterpreting what God was saying through His Word, missing the way God intends for us to respond, and misleading the people to whom we minister.
- However, when we do take the time to travel correctly, we discover the wonder of God's heart expressed through the original context, and the transforming power of His Word for our lives today.

* Based on original material © The Proclamation Trust with kind permission. www.proctrust.org.uk