

## **4. THE FIRST PROCESS OF THE BIBLE GPS IS UNDERSTANDING.**

**Objective:** To realize that because the Bible was written in different language, tradition, time, situation and history we need a responsible method to understand the message to the original receiver of the Bible.

### **Agenda**

1. A test drive
2. How did the Bible come into being?
3. Overview of the Bible
4. *The First process of the Bible GPS is Understanding.*
5. The Second process of the Bible GPS is *Application*.  
The Third process of the Bible GPS is *Communication*.
6. The Bible GPS on Galatians 5: 16-26
7. The Bible GPS on Ephesians 5: 8-20
8. The Bible GPS on Romans 3: 21-26

**Why is the Bible not always easy to understand?**

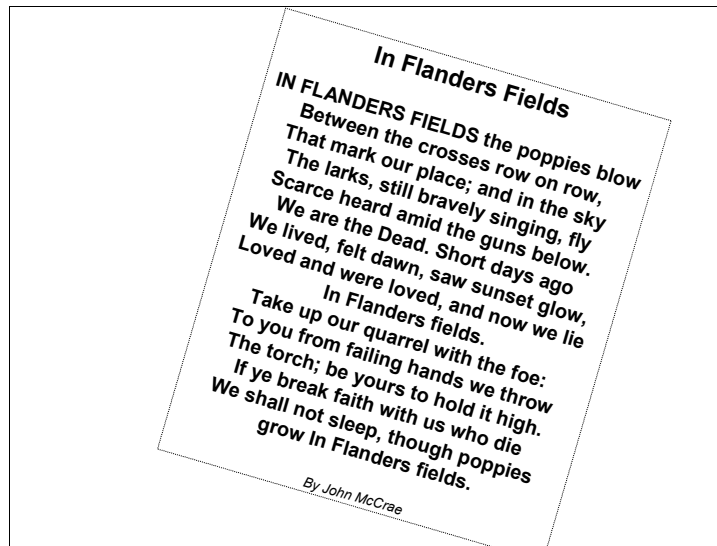
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Why is it easier for Canadians to understand this poem than people e.g. in the Philippines?

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**תהילים 51**

1 למנצח מזמור לדוד:

2 בבוֹא־אֵלָיו נָתַן הַגִּבּוֹר כְּאֲשֶׁר־נָא אֶל־בַּת־שָׁבַע:

3 חָנַנִי אֱלֹהִים כַּחֲסֹדְךָ כְּרַב־רַחֲמֶיךָ מִחַה פִּשְׁעֵי:

4 כִּבִּסְנִי מַעוֹנִי וּמַחֲטָאתִי טָהַרְנִי:

5 כִּי־פִשְׁעֵי אָנִי אֲדַע וְחַטָּאתִי נֶגְדֵי תָמִיד:

(The Westminster Leningrad Codex)

This poem is Psalm 51 in its original language, Hebrew  
Why do you think is it easier to understand Flanders Field than this poem?

.....  
.....

Who best understood this passage and why?

.....  
.....

**What are the differences between us  
and the original receivers of the Bible?**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

**Please tick in the block which version you will use when you need to do a devotional at a youth camp.**

***“Greet one another with a kiss of love.  
Peace to all of you who are in Christ.”***   
*1 Peter 5: 14, New International Version*

***“Greet each other in Christian love.  
Peace be to all of you who are in Christ.”***   
*1 Peter 5: 14, New Living Translation*

**Who best understood the message of 1 Peter 5 verse 14?**

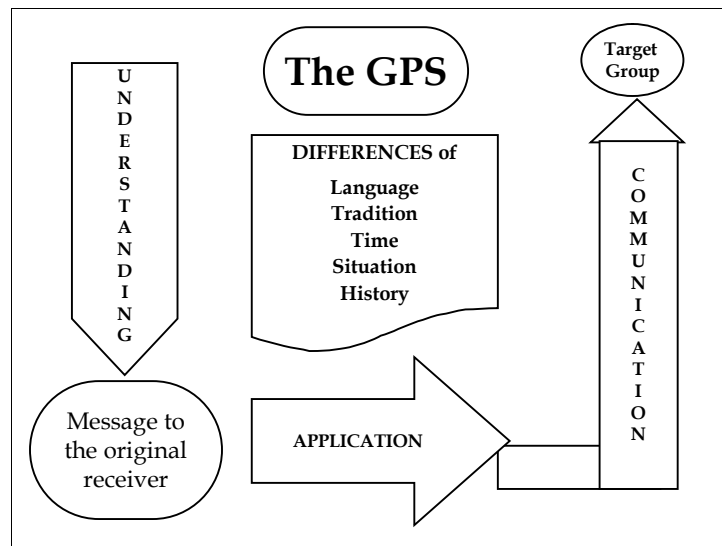
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**But how can the message to the original receivers  
speak to us in the twenty first century?  
This happens through three processes.**

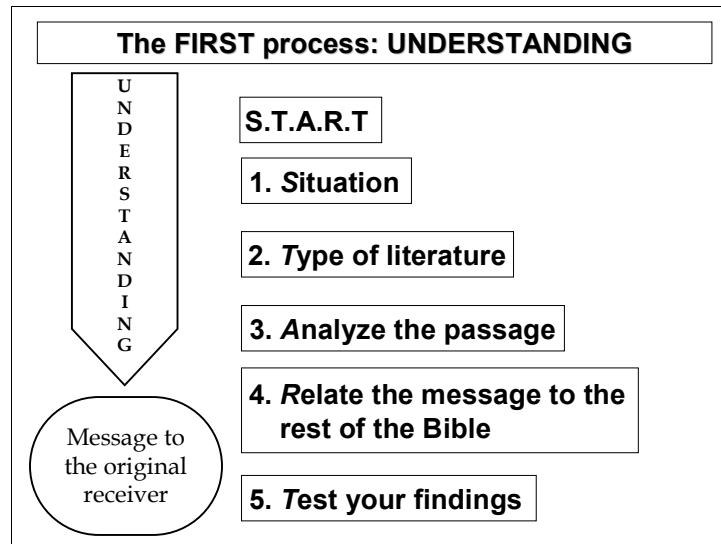
1. ....

2. ....

3. ....







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The *first process* is UNDERSTANDING. (Exegesis)

The **Purpose** of this process is to ..... the message as well as or almost as well as the original receivers did.

**Apply the steps of UNDERSTANDING to Ephesians 2**

**1. Situation**

**S.T.A.R.T.**

This will help you to better understand the message. You can get some background information in the Bible as well as outside sources, like study Bibles.

**2. Type of literature**

It is important to establish the type of literature. E.g. you cannot read poetry like a story and vice versa.  
The diagram is a brief summary of the major types of literature in the Bible.

Prose	Poetry
Narrative	You get poetry in ...
Procedure	* Psalms
Explanation	* Prophets
Instruction	* Wisdom literature

**Apply the steps of UNDERSTANDING to Ephesians 2**

**3. Analyze the passage**

**3.1 Write out the passage in smaller units (if necessary)**

**3.2 Mark the significant meaning indicators**

**3.3 Explain difficult words and phrases**

**3.4 Establish the meaning structure**

**3.5 Conclude and summarize the message to the original receiver**

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*3.1 Write out the passage in smaller units (if necessary)*

Some passages (e.g. explanation and instruction) are 'loaded'. It is therefore helpful to write the passage in smaller units in order to make it easier to analyze.

*3.2 Mark the significant meaning indicators*

Marking words/phrases with the same/related or opposite meanings help us to see how the author developed his/her thoughts.

*3.3 Explain difficult words and phrases*

We want to find out how the original receiver understood the words and phrases of a paragraph.

*3.4 Establish the meaning structure*

In the light of the findings of the previous three steps, we now attempt to see how the author arranged the main ideas.

*3.5 Conclude and summarize the message to the original receiver*

Following on from the previous step, the message to the original receiver can now be summarized. It is done as the conclusion to the findings of all the steps of UNDERSTANDING.

## **Ephesians 2**

<sup>1</sup>As for you,  
you were dead in your transgressions and sins,  
<sup>2</sup>in which you used to live  
when you followed the ways of this world  
and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,  
the spirit who is now at work  
in those who are disobedient.  
<sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time,  
gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature  
and following its desires and thoughts.  
Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.  
<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us,  
God, who is rich in mercy,  
<sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in transgressions—  
it is by grace you have been saved.  
<sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ  
and seated us with him  
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages  
he might show the incomparable riches of his grace,  
expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved,  
through faith—and this not from yourselves,  
it is the gift of God—  
<sup>9</sup>not by works,  
so that no one can boast.  
<sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(New International Version)

**Apply the steps of UNDERSTANDING to Ephesians 2**

**3. Analyze the passage**

**3.1 Write out the passage in smaller units (if necessary)**

**3.2 Mark the significant meaning indicators**

**3.3 Explain difficult words and phrases**

**3.4 Establish the meaning structure**

**VERSES 1-3 = what a mess (sin)**

**VERSES 4-9 = what a God (salvation)**

**VERSE 10 = what a difference (service)**

**3.5 Conclude and summarize the message to the original receiver**

.....  
.....

**Apply the steps of UNDERSTANDING to Ephesians 2**

**4. Relate the message to the rest of the Bible**

In this step we determine whether the findings of the previous steps relate to the rest of the Bible.

*Do you think that the message to the original receiver relates to the rest of the Bible?*

YES

NO

**Apply the steps of UNDERSTANDING to Ephesians 2**

**5. Test your findings**

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**In this step you test your own findings against those of others.**  
(e.g. commentaries, study Bibles)

Message to  
the original  
receiver

**Sin messes everything but God enables us through Jesus to make and to be a difference.**

