

Template for Word Study

1. Pick a passage

Find a passage you want to study. Find one that is interesting to you and one you suspect will have significant words.

What is the context of this passage in the book?

Narrow it down to one sentence and write it out:

Select the word(s) you want to study:

2. Identify the Greek word behind the English

Write out the English word(s) that you think might be significant (up to three). Then identify the Greek word behind the English. Write out the inflected form and parse it, including its lexical form.

Word 1

English:

Greek inflected:

Parsing:

Greek lexical:

Gloss:

Word 2

English:

Greek inflected:

Parsing:

Greek lexical:

Gloss:

Word 3

English:

Greek inflected:

Parsing:

Greek lexical:

Gloss:

3. Spell out the word's semantic range

As you were doing step #2, you probably started to get a better feel for what the words mean. Pick just one of the words that you can study that will help you understand the meaning of the verse.

Identify the main options for the word's semantic range. Find a verse to illustrate each of the meanings.

Word:

Meaning 1:

Sample verse:

Meaning 1:

Sample verse:

Meaning 1:

Sample verse:

Meaning 1:

Sample verse:

4. Make your decision

Of all the possible meanings for the word, which one fits the context of your verse best? Why? If applicable, give arguments pro and con for two different options.

Meaning 1:

Arguments pro:

Arguments con:

Meaning 2:

Arguments pro:

Arguments con:

5. Write out the verse

Write out the verse, emphasizing the precise meaning of the word. Explain what the verse meant in its historical situation, and then what it means in your historical content.

Now is the time to write out the actual word study. Write it in narrative style, not so much showing all your research but telling the reader what the word could mean, and what it does mean in this particular context. Pretend it is something you are going to read in a Sunday School class. What do they need to know to understand what the word means in this particular verse.