



Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible

J. Daniel Hays

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Grasping God's Word has proven itself in classrooms across the country as an invaluable help to students who want to learn how to read, interpret, and apply the Bible for themselves. The third edition, revised based on feedback from professors, will continue to serve college-level students and lay learners well in their quest to gain a firm grasp on the rock of God's word.

Old Testament scholar J. Daniel Hays and New Testament expert J. Scott Duvall provide practical, hands-on exercises to guide students through the interpretive process. To emphasize the Bible's redemptive arc and encourage correlation across the biblical canon, the authors have included a call to "Consult the biblical map. How does a theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?" as an additional step in the Interpretive Journey. This edition has also been rearranged for clarity and includes updated illustrations, appendices, bibliography, and assignments.

A robust suite of learning aids is available for purchase to be used alongside the textbook to help students excel in their studies. These include a workbook, video lectures for each chapter featuring the authors, and a laminated quick study sheet with key concepts from the book. Free teaching resources for instructors and learning resources for students are available for *Grasping God's Word* on ZondervanAcademic.com.

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Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible Details

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Interpreting, and Applying the Bible J. Daniel Hays

From Reader Review Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible for online ebook

logankstewart says

Grasping God's Word is a mammoth of a book. It's used as a textbook for seminarians and other students of the bible. Me, I'm just a Sunday School teacher and a lover of the Word. So why did I read it? I was looking around on NetGalley and found an ARC for it. I thought it could be helpful for Sunday School, sent the request to Zondervan, and soon I had the ARC on my Kindle.

On the down side, I've rarely had good luck with sending ARCs to my Kindle via NetGalley. Most of the time, the things are shoddy and formatted to a point where I either can't read at all or I would have to exude great effort to do so. This is to be expected some, as the books are ARCs, but they still need to be read-able. In this case, *Grasping God's Word* is read-able, but there are plenty of graphics that are impossible to decipher. Also, quotes and footnotes don't display correctly.

Besides this, and this stuff really won't affect the final product, I rather enjoyed Duvall and Hays' textbook. Up front, I didn't read the entire thing, but I did read a large chunk of it. For Sunday School my class is doing a "how to read and study the bible" study. Through this we are going through the various types of books (poetry, prophecy, epistles, etc.) found in the bible, and this book is a perfect tool for what my class is doing. I read the first few introductory chapters, setting up the book and how to use it.

I like the authors approach to interpreting scripture. Imagine a biblical city, all walled and dusty. There's a river flowing next to the city. On the other side is a modern city, skyscrapers and all. Connecting these two cities is a bridge. The method describes taking the message from the bible (a la the old city) and applying it to life (a la the new city). Doing this requires understanding the culture of the Old, crossing the bridge, and understanding the New. (There's more to it than that, but this is a simplified preview.)

In particular I enjoyed the chapter on epistles. It was very informative of how letters worked back in biblical times, how Paul's letters are much, much longer than an average letter of the times, and how letters were written, going so far as to break down the mechanics and structure. I personally feign interest in most of history, but this stuff was kind of interesting.

Overall, I felt that Duvall and Hays offer a great resource for reading and understanding the bible. They are passionate about correct interpretation, and they stress context very seriously. There are many different methods for reading and interpreting Scripture, and *Grasping God's Word* offers tools for applying the bible to our own lives. While the book goes through a somewhat repetitive approach, if you're in any way interested in getting a little deeper in the Word, then it is still a book I'd recommend checking out.

FTC Thingy: Zondervan graciously supplied me with an Advanced Readers Copy of this book. I wasn't even obligated to right a review, but I enjoy this sort of thing, so I did. I also enjoy cookies and milk, or just cookies, too, though I did not receive any of these along with my book. Such is life.

Joshua says

Teaches the principles of Biblical Interpretation clearly and concisely. But it's not overly technical. It's

intended to be used by the Sunday School teacher and Small Group leader, and so it's very practical and easy to use. It comes with hands-on exercises that you can use to sharpen your skills in Biblical Interpretation, and it remains on my shelf to this day as a quick reference tool that i still use in preparing my studies and sermons.

Kat Osten says

Excellent! I reviewed this for use in our church's programs. I recommend this for an introductory text on hermeneutics. I liked the organization of the book and the emphasis on context. While I might want more from their observation section, as an introductory text a student new to the subject will like its checklist like approach. As a follow-up though, I'd recommend Hendricks book Living By the Book.

Zann says

This is a text book but not at all dry or boring. I found it very helpful.

Wesley Storks says

A good practical approach to every day hermeneutics. All the right principles are there for helping make readers into students and expositors. The way the authors teach is comprehensive and easy to understand. However, It's a large book, and it works best if you are teaching basic biblical interpretation, it can still be used for personal benefit as well.

Rene Velarde says

4.5 Stars*

Helped me, and can help anyone understand how to read and apply God's word. Very easy to understand. Great metaphors. Very Practical.

Matt Mason says

Enjoyable read (doesn't read like a textbook). Best resource I know of for learning how to interpret the Bible.

DT says

Good first text for exegesis

Nate Weis says

Used it in my seminary hermeneutics class. Extremely helpful.

Mike says

This text is perfect for a high school or early undergraduate course on hermeneutics. It was assigned to me as a graduate text and it was the biggest waste of my time. I hung on to the text in the hopes that it will become a useful teaching tool.

Andrew Bondurant says

Very readable and helpful guide to interpreting Scripture. The authors provide a 5-step process that is extremely helpful in faithfully understanding and applying Scripture. The chapters on the genres offer a good introduction, but do not get caught up in the details so as to lose the reader new to the subject.

The content is solid and the accessibility in writing style makes this a valuable tool for students, lay people, and those in full time ministry.

Alexander says

I've been hearing about GGW for several years now and even started reading it several years ago (though I stopped for some reason). I finally got around to reading all the way through it in preparation for a class I'm going to teach.

I think GGW is great. It is long, but it sets out to do exactly what the authors intended to do. It bridges the gap between entry-level Bible study books and more technical books on hermeneutics. The metaphor of the Interpretive Journey is not only a useful analogy, but it's an accessible methodology for students all over the world.

I also appreciate the topics covered in this book. The book is well-organized, logical, and easy to read. I am especially thankful for Parts 4 and 5, in which the authors describe the application of the Interpretive Journey to each of the major genres of the New and Old Testaments, respectively.

In conclusion, while the text is long, I would have no reservations about recommending this book to anyone serious about learning more about how to study and appropriately discover (not determine) the meaning of God's Word.

Michael Cash says

This is one of the best books I have ever read. The authors introduce and then build upon a logical, methodical way of interpreting the entire bible, regardless of genre. Specific issues surrounding various types

of biblical material are addressed, but it doesn't get burdensome; in fact, I was thrilled to get to each new chapter to learn what the authors had for me next. A great read.

Zak Metz says

Should be required reading for anyone who wants to accurately understand the Bible. Helps to go through it with a great professor too!

Francisco says

I enjoyed this book because it is comprehensive and easy to read and understand despite the dryness of the subject (I don't like Hermeneutics).
