

Biblical Exegesis Worksheet

Use the questions in this chart to guide your exegesis. (You may not be able to answer all the questions.) Take notes in the blank spaces to the right.

Type of Method	Questions This Method Asks	Exegesis Work
Textual Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the many ancient copies and fragments of Bible books, which ones are the oldest? • Can we identify why there are differences between different copies of the same book? • Can we identify why different translations use different words in passages? 	
Historical Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the historical situation during the life of the author / editor or of the author's / editor's community? • How did the historical situation influence the author's writing? 	
Literary Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the writer use a particular literary form or device such as a poem, a historical story, a prophecy, a letter, or a gospel? • Did the passage use metaphors, puns, parables, exaggeration, a midrash, or other literary devices? • How did these particular literary forms or devices function in an ancient society? 	
Source Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are other writings from ancient cultures outside the Scriptures similar to a biblical passage? • What is the meaning of the differences between the way a story is told in the Bible and the way it is told in other sources? 	

(This chart is adapted from *Saint Mary's Press® Essential Bible Dictionary*, by Sheila O'Connell-Roussell [Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2005], page 57. Copyright © 2005 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

