

Exegetical Methodology: Sociohistorical Criticism

A. Write the names of your group members here (this should be same group you worked with in doing literary criticism).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

B. Circle the Scripture passage your group has chosen for a sociohistorical analysis. *Do not* choose a passage you already worked on using the literary criticism methodology.

- Mark 7:24–30 (the Syrophenician woman)
- Matthew 4:1–11 (the temptation of Jesus)
- Matthew 8:5–13 (healing of the centurion's servant)
- Luke 1:46–55 (Mary's *Magnificat*)
- Luke 8:4–8 (Parable of the Sower)
- John 8:1–11 (woman caught in adultery)

C. Using the methodology of sociohistorical criticism, analyze your chosen text. Each member of the group should record notes on your group's responses to the questions below, as well as additional comments. You will have 15 to 20 minutes to work on these questions.

1. Imagine you are looking out a window into the world of this scriptural text. Some of the areas you need to look at include the following:
 - Customs
 - Traditions
 - Religious practices
 - Geography



- Culture
 - Society and social norms
 - Family life
2. What questions does this text raise about the areas listed above? Next to those items, write down your questions or describe what you might know.
 3. What social, historical, and cultural cues are found in the text that will help us to better understand the intent of the author and the meaning of the text?
 4. What other background information might help us to better understand the text?
 5. Using the insights gained from sociohistorical criticism, what do you think is the primary message being communicated in this text? What meaning does this text have for us today?
- D.** Based on your group's responses to these questions, create a newscast that conveys what you have learned about this text through sociohistorical criticism. Be prepared to perform your newscast for the class.

