

**Study Skill | Interpretation**

After making initial observations of the text, *Interpretation helps us understand what the passage means. Which observations will help us unlock the meaning of the text? Develop questions based on your observations.*

Practice these tips + tricks to help guide your interpretation:

- What is the significance of \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is the main point the author is communicating?
- What is the tension in the text?
- What was going on in the culture?

Great interpretation questions are:

- T - text dependent
- I - interesting
- G - promote good discussion
- H - highlight the tension
- T - tie observations together

Read **Romans 10:1-15**-  
Write as many questions as you can about the text.

## ROMANS 10:1-15

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. 6 But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have

## **Discussion Questions:**

What do these passages teach us about faith?

Look up 3-5 additional verses that address the topic of "faith" -

What are we believing when we put our faith in Jesus?

What good news do we see in these verses?

## **For further reflection:**

How might you be prompted to respond to these passages?

Spend time discussing the men and women in the "Hall of Faith" (Hebrews 11)

never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

# JAMES 2:14-19

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!