Course Understanding the Bible, Egypt 2011 Part 2 Worksheet

Three levels of explanation:

Searching…	*What it includes…*	*Questions applicable…*
1. Searching for the natural meaning	listen and observe	What, who, when, where, how
2. Searching for the original meaning	understand the message of the author in his context	*Why is it here? What does the author say?*
3. Searching for the actual meaning	hear and obey;	*What does the Holy Spirit say to us? What about God´s glory in our life and in society?*

Read and read again Psalm 1 with attention and prayerfully

Stage 1 Questions to help you through

1. What kind of images and metaphors you find in the psalm?

2. What are central words in your opinion

3. How does the poet describe his life (his situation, his relation to God, his relationship to people around).

4. What is striking in the description of the opponents, enemies

5. Do you see e development of thoughts and/or feelings in this psalm?

Stage 2 Questions to help you through

1. Why do you think the metaphors are important for the poet/author?

2. Why do you think the poet has written this psalm? And why did he choose a literary style as we find here?

3. Why does he make so sharp contrasts in this psalm?

4. Imagine: this psalm is used in the old temple liturgy. What could it have meant to the believer at that time (for himself, his family or clan, for his people…)?

5. What indications you find in this psalm toward the Kingdom of God, toward the work of the Holy Spirit and the final consummation?

Stage 3 Questions to help you through

1. In which respect does the psalm touch my life (positively and/or negatively)?

2. In which respect the poet is an example for me (or encouragement, or mirror etc.)?

3. Does the psalm help me to follow Jesus?

4. Doe the psalm bring you to prayer, or confession of sin, or intercession, etc.?

5. How can the psalm bring you to acknowledge the glory of God?