

How to Study the Bible? *OIA Method*

INTRODUCTION:

When coming to a passage of Scripture, we need to come with these few principles recognized and believed:

1. The Bible is the very Word of God Himself.
 2. The Bible is the tool that God uses to change hearts, and ultimately, lives.
 3. Reading the Bible is a Spiritual practice.
 4. Come to Bible Study **prayerfully**.
-
- I. **Observation:** What does the text **say**?
 - a. Start with reading the passage multiple times without taking any notes.
 - b. Observe the **Obvious**.
 - i. Things that are easy to notice.
 - ii. People, places, events.
 - c. Answer the **W's** of the Passage:
 - i. Who: Who wrote it? Who are the major Characters? Who is the passage talking about?
 - ii. What: **What is happening**? What are the main teachings or points? What are the people doing?
 - iii. When: When did this event take place? (time of day, history, time of year?) When was it written?
 - iv. Where: Where was this done? Where was this said? Where will it happen? Town names?
 - d. Write down **terms or words** you don't understand.
 - e. Look for **repeated** words
 - f. Look for *Cause and Effect, If and thens, comparisons and contrasts, questions and answers*.
 - g. Atmosphere: **Mood/Tone** of the author's words.
 - h. **Write down questions** about the passage you'd like to answer (Very important).
 - II. **Interpretation:** What does the text **mean**?
 - a. Answer the questions from Observation that you wrote down.
 - b. Work through the **C's** of Interpretation:
 - i. Context:
 1. Read the verses that surround the text.
 2. *Near Context*: Verses immediately before and after.
 3. *Far context*: The paragraph or chapter that precedes and/or follows.
 4. How does this text fit into the overall book/paragraph?

- ii. Cross-References:
 - 1. **Let Scripture interpret Scripture.** The Bible will often shed light on the passage you're looking at. Look up the different cross-references of the passage you're reading.
- iii. Conclusion:
 - 1. **What is the main point of this passage?**
- iv. Consultation:
 - 1. Commentaries & Study Bibles: www.blueletterbible.org & & <https://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> (Both free resources with great commentaries).
 - 2. Only after you've done the hard work of answering your questions and working through the other C's.
 - 3. **Check your findings** and see if they line up with the commentaries you use.

III. **Application:** What does this text mean for my life?

- a. How does the truth revealed here affect my relationship with God?
- b. How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
- c. How does this truth affect me?
- d. **SPECK Application method:**
 - i. **S: Sin to Confess**
 - 1. Is there any sin revealed in this passage that I am guilty of?
 - ii. **P: Promise to Claim**
 - 1. Is there a promise from God that I can remember and cling to for my life/walk?
 - iii. **E: Example to Follow**
 - 1. Do I find people in this passage that give a good example to imitate?
 - iv. **C: Command to Obey**
 - 1. Are there any specific commands given for me to follow?
 - v. **K: Knowledge about God**
 - 1. What does this passage teach me about God or about Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? **(Very Important for Application)**
 - vi. ****Not all letters of SPECK will be applicable to every passage. But there should always be at least 1.**