

Bible Study Chart

Observation



1

Begin in prayer

Prayer is a key element in Bible study. Life-change and true understanding only come from God.

2

Read the text

Read through the book (chapter) you are studying.

3

"Identify The Obvious"

As you read through the text observe the facts that are obvious by virtue of being REPEATED (key words, phrases, people, places, events, etc.)

4

Ask the "5 W's and an H"

As you study any passage of Scripture, train yourself to constantly ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

These questions are the building blocks of precise observation, which is essential for accurate interpretation.

5

Make lists

Making lists can be one of the most enlightening things you do as you study. Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts.

It is also helpful to make a list of what you learn about each key word or person you mark.

6

Identify the theme of the passage (central idea).

Themes are often revealed by reviewing the key words and lists you developed.

Try to express the theme as briefly as possible, using words found in the text.

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Interpretation



1

Remember that context is King.

If you lay the solid foundation of observation, you will be prepared to consider each verse in the light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. As you study, ask yourself: Is my interpretation of this passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with other Scripture about the same subject? Am I considering the historic and cultural context?

2

Literally according to the author intent

For example, you will find more similes and metaphors in poetical and prophetic literature than in historical or biographical books.

Interpret portions of Scripture according to their literary style. For example: Historical, Prophetic, Biographical, Didactic (teaching), Poetic, etc.

3

Correlation

Correlation allows us to validate our interpretation or seek further explanation of a passage.

When we examine other parts of Scripture to compare, contrast, illustrate, expand, or clarify, we do so to evaluate our interpretation.

4

Suggests question for interpretation

What did you learn about God that will help you in your relationship with Him?

What did you learn from the recipients that will help you in your life as a Christian?

What did the writer express in the letter that struck you the most?

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Application



What is one thing that God is calling me to change right now?
How does this passage make want to love Jesus and my neighbor?
Are there sins I need to give up?
What commitments does God want me to make?
Are there examples to follow?
Are there warnings that I should heed?
How can I apply what I have read today?