



Bible Study Methods

Lesson One

I. A Three Step Process

Observation: *“What Do I See?”*

There are basically four things to look for:

1. Terms
2. Structure
 - A. Grammatical Structure
 - B. Literary Structure
3. Literary Form
4. Atmosphere

Interpretation: *“What Does it Mean?”*

Three things will help us discover the meaning of a passage:

1. Bombard the text with questions
2. Look for the answers to your questions.
3. Seek to integrate the parts with the whole.

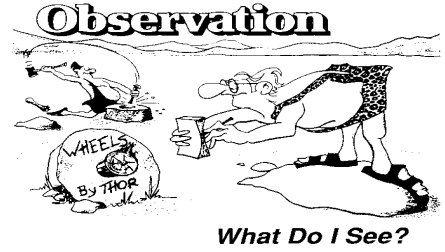
Application: *“How Does it Work?”*

There are two things to look for in this process:

1. How does it work for me?
2. How does it work for others?

Note: *Two out of three ain't good!*

II. Observation



Ten Second Drill: *What do you see?*



Write down as many observations as you can.....

There are two basic reasons why we don't get more from our study of Scripture:

- (1) We don't know how to READ..
- (2) We don't know what to LOOK FOR.

– Howard G. Hendricks

Reading Rules:

Rule #1: Learn to read better and faster.

- There is a direct correlation between your *efficiency* in reading and your *effectiveness* in Bible Study.
- Mortimer J. Adler and Mark Van Doren, *How to Read a Book* (Simon & Schuster, 1972).

Rule #2: Learn to read as for the first time.

- A good suggestion for reading the Word of God freshly is to read it in several different translations.

Rule #3: Learn to read it as a love letter.

- We need to come to the Word of God in love with the Person who wrote it.

"The more time you spend in observation, the less time you will spend in interpretation, and the more accurate will be your results. The less time you spend in observation, the more time you will spend in interpretation, and the less accurate will be your results."

Observing the Book of Job 1-2:

GOD	SATAN	JOB



Assignments:

#1 Take a familiar small household object [ex. your key chain, your toothbrush], a pen and a pad of paper. Spend five minutes making a list of observations about it. Repeat this process at least 3 times during the week adding new observations each time to your list. Bring your list and [if practical] your object next week and be prepared to share.

#2 Use the above process to make observations on a familiar passage: Matthew 28:18-20. Be sure to bring your list of observations next week. Don't get frustrated if this seems hard or confusing. As we discuss your observations next week the process will become clearer.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

OBSERVATIONS:

ONLINE SOURCE: Blue Letter Bible: www.blueletterbible.org/
KJV, NLT, NKJV, NASV, ASV, RSV, Vulgate, etc.

Website: www.drstevej.com/bsm.htm