

## I. Prayer

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY.

## II. Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

1. Write 10 or more observations about the passage:
  - **Who** are the main people?
  - **Who** is speaking? **Who** is the audience?
  
  - **What** is occurring?
  - **When** is this happening?
  
  - **Where** is the passage taking place?
  - **How** are people responding?
2. Identify **key words** and phrases.
3. Look for **grammatical connections**: repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause & effect, and etc.
4. Note **verb tense**.
5. Look for **conjunctions** such as *since* and *therefore*. Why are those words in the sentence?
6. What relevant things do you know or wonder about the **cultural context** of the passage?

*To know the context of your passage, you may need to read the pages or paragraphs that precedes it.* Find some background information here: [Biblestudytools.com](http://Biblestudytools.com) | [Overbiewbible.com](http://Overbiewbible.com) | [bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com) | [Logos.com](http://Logos.com)

## III. Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Develop some **questions** based on the text. Ask what the significance of your main observations and why they happened.
2. **Answer** the questions from the text and the context.
3. Imagine the **perspective** of the people in the scene. How would they understand what's being said/done?
4. Try to **summarize** the passage in one sentence. What is the **main point** the author is communicating to the audience?
5. What is revealed about God? About us? About how God relates to us?
6. What is revealed about God's Kingdom; the way God rules or cares for creation? (Characteristics, value system, etc.)

## IV. Application

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN FOR US/ME?

1. How do you **respond** to what the passage is saying? Does it challenge how you see the world?
2. Is there a central truth that you need to **put into practice**?
3. What are the implications of the passage for the **community** of which you are a part?
4. **Pray** that God will help you believe and align. Leave room to experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit.