

Summary of the OIA Bible Study Method

adapted from *Knowable Word*, by Peter Krol

Observation

- Beware of *familiarity*.
- Begin with a *book overview* — author, audience/occasion, themes/structure, purpose; feel free to consult an introduction in a good study Bible or Bible dictionary, but give the *greatest weight* to evidence from within the Bible
- **Five things to observe in a passage:** genre, words (repeated words, connectors, names/titles), grammar (subject, verb, object of each sentence), structure (transitions, comparisons & contrasts), mood
- **Four key skills to jumpstart observation:** find repeated words, connectors, names/titles, and comparisons/contrasts

Interpretation

- Beware of *presumption*.
- **Three steps for interpretation**
 - Ask questions of your observations (what? why? so what?)
 - Answer the questions from the text
 - Determine the author's main point — ask “why?”, consider context (historical, literary, inter-textual), trace the author's flow of thought
- Connect the main point to Jesus (suffering/death/resurrection, repentance/forgiveness, message proclaimed to nations)

Application

- Beware of *inertia*.
- Application is more art than science.
- **Two directions of application:** inward (*How do I need to change?*) and outward (*How has God called me to influence his world?*)
- **Three spheres of life for application**
 - *Head* — what we think/believe
 - *Heart* — who we are/what we love/our character
 - *Hands* — what we do
- Remember Jesus in your application
- Be specific in your application
- Apply the Bible in community — because we have *blind spots* and because we have *resistance from our flesh*.

Correlation — Be sure to understand a Bible passage *in its own context* before exploring how it connects to other parts of the Bible.

Check out lots of great Bible study resources: <https://www.knowableword.com/resources/>