

Going Deeper in Bible Study

Week 2 - Observation Part II



January 12, 2025

Motivation Moment & Prayer

Isaiah 55:10-11 - God's Word is Effective!

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

- "empty" – without its effect and result (LEX)
- "it shall accomplish" – to put something into effect entirely (LEX)
- "purpose" - to have a desire for, want strongly (LEX)
- "succeed" – to prosper (thrive) make steady, favorable progress (LEX)

Review last week and Growth project

OBSERVATION – what do I see?

STEP 1: Mark up the passage (did the first two)

STEP 2: Write out observations for each verse

STEP 3: Research setting and context

STEP 4: Write out questions for interpretation

INTERPRETATION – what does it mean?

APPLICATION – how will I respond?

Growth project on... mark up passage and make observations for Colossians 1:24-29.

- Important verbs, why? Other key words/repeated ideas?
- Key connectives, what do they show?
- Any structural indicators?

OBSERVATION (part 2) – observations, context, and questions for interpretation.

OBSERVATION – what do I see?

STEP 1: Mark up the passage

STEP 2: Write out observations for each verse

Observation skill – comparing translations.

- Why is this important?
 - Gives insights into the word meanings and range.
 - Shows where a word is hard to translate into English.
 - Helps in interpretation to decide where you need to focus.
- Compare 3-6 translations together and write out on your observation sheet the differences that you see.

STEP 3: Research setting and context

Setting and Context Questions

1. Who is the author or speaker?
2. Why was this book written? What was the occasion of the book?
3. What historic events surround this book? What was happening in the world at the time this was written?
4. Where was it written? Who were the original recipients? What do we know about them?
5. What is the overall message of this book, and how does this passage fit into that message?
6. What literary form is being employed in this passage?
7. How does this passage fit the immediate context? What precedes this passage? What follows? What are the connection themes & points?

So, how do you go about finding the answers to these context questions?

- Study entire book, look at main themes.
- Find what you can within the text of the book by observation.
- Use a resource to help you look up background details. Any favorites?

STEP 4: Write out questions for interpretation - questions that help you with discovering the meaning of the passage.

To Use for Writing Out Your Interpretation Questions

WHO is...

...The author talking about?

- ...Accomplishing the action?
- ...Benefiting from it?

WHAT is the...

- ...Meaning of this word?
- ...Significance of the phrase?
- ...Implication of this statement?
- ...Meaning of this figure of speech?
- ...Author's flow of thought and tone?
- ...Relationship between these phrases?

WHY did the author...

- ...Choose this word?
- ...Include this phrase or statement?
- ...Not include or talk about something?
- ...Connect these ideas?

Try these out together using Colossians 1:1-8.

Growth Project

- Write out contextual observations for Colossians 2:16-23. What do you learn about what was going on in Colossae? You can also do any extra research on the context of the book.
- Also, practice writing questions for interpretation. To the right side of the passage, Colossians 2:16-23, write out as many questions you can think of using our who, what, and why questions as your guide.

Reflection and Prayer