



3 METHODS FOR STUDYING SCRIPTURE

- 1) There is no “right” way to study scripture, but there are a few different methods that have helped many people along the way.
Try out the “Observation, Interpretation, Application” method.

OBSERVATION: “What does it say?” or “What do I see?”

- As you look at the verse, what words stick out? Are any words repeated?
- Look at the context of the verse and passage, specifically looking at the verse prior and following.
- Is the passage/verse a question, statement, or command?
- Is the writer describing something or recounting a story or narrative? What did the author see when they wrote the passage?
- Try to put yourself in their shoes and make some observations.
- Practically, you can mark anything you observe in your Bible or in a journal.

INTERPRETATION: “What does it mean?”

- What do you think the author intends in this passage? This is where you can ask a bunch of questions of the text and where you seek to find answers to those questions.
- For example, if you studied John 11:35 (“Jesus wept”) you could ask: Why is Jesus crying? What led Him to start crying? Are there any other times Jesus wept?
- As you study the passage and its context, you put your questions and answers together as you attempt to interpret the verse/passage

APPLICATION: “How does it work?” or “What do I do?”

- Now that we’ve made some observations and made efforts to understand what the scripture means, we need to figure out what we do with it.
- How does this passage apply to me? What do I do about it? How will this passage impact my life or the lives of those around me?
- James 1:22-25 describes a man who looks in the mirror and sees what he looks like and then turns around and forgets what he saw in the mirror. We don’t want to be people who look into God’s Word and forget what it says. Rather, we want to be people who allow God’s Word to change and transform us, so that we might become more and more like Jesus Christ



2) Try another set of questions to ask yourself each day after you read a passage of scripture. With a journal nearby, these five questions can help you explore each passage on a deeper level:

- What do you like about this passage? What emotions does this passage stir up in you? What jumps off the page at you?
- What surprises you about this passage? Did you read anything you'd never thought about before? What makes you go, "huh" as you read it?
- What do you learn about God? What does this passage teach you about the character of God? Any attributes of God that this passage highlights?
- What do you learn about humanity? What does this passage teach you about human nature? Any patterns you see that are still repeated today?
- How do you apply these truths to your life? What can you take from this passage and apply to your life right now? How are these truths the same today as they were thousands of years ago? These questions give us a little bit of everything. They can help you categorize your thoughts, feelings, and convictions after reading a passage. It also gives you an opportunity to apply what you read and live out what it means. Take some time this week and practice this method and come next week ready to report back on how it went!



3) Try the APPLE method. Grab a journal, Bible, and pen to get started.

A - List any **ATTRIBUTES** about God you learn or observe from the passage. (Describe His character. What is He like?)

P - List any **PROMISES** from God you learn or observe from the passage. (What has He done? What will He do?)

P - List any life **PRINCIPLES** hidden in the text. (Are there commands? What is God asking of His people?)

L - List any **LESSONS** learned. (Any sins to avoid? Are there examples of ungodliness? What is God trying to teach His people? What is God trying to teach me?)

E - List any **EXAMPLES** to follow. (In what practical way can I implement this truth? What action needs to be taken?)