

Living the Word Workshop

Observation

What does the Bible say? Read through the passage several times straight through. Paraphrase the passage in your own words. Record the facts: who, what, when, and where. Write facts that stick out, and questions that come up, but do not go further yet! This should take up most of your time. The other steps will more easily be done if this step is done thoroughly.

Interpretation

What does the passage mean? Ask why this is recorded, for the author and audience, remembering context. Let the Scripture interpret Scripture, don't bring in your assumptions or personal feelings. There is only one real meaning to the passages, seek to find the truth! Draw interpretations from observations that stood out to you.

Application

What am I going to do about it? What is one thing that I can change about my actions, thoughts, words, or lifestyle that will follow the Bible and imitate Christ? From your key interpretations, choose one thing to apply, if you have trouble coming up with one, try the SPECK acronym. Use the SMART acronym to make a great one!

S – Sin to Repent of

P – Promise to Trust in

E – Example to Follow

C – Command to Obey

K – Knowledge to Treasure

S - Specific

M - Measurable

A - Attainable

R - Reasonable

T - Timely

Guidelines:

- Do this daily, for 15 minutes (20 mins with prayer).
- Start in Matthew, progressing through all the gospels.
- Choose a section of verses in order, start with 10-20.
- Don't try too many verses in one sitting, look for depth not quantity.
- Pray briefly before and after – ask for wisdom, patience, and understanding.
- Journal through O.I.A., and write down any other thoughts or questions to ask others.
- Do this in the morning, before work or distractions.
- Even if you don't feel like doing it, become disciplined by doing it anyway.
- Start with a fresh mind, open to the Scripture, don't read your opinion in.
- Remember, we need Him to speak to us, we can't understand this on our own.
- Work in order, O.I.A., take the time to do exhaustive observation, and correct interpretation.
- Your eventual goal is a SMART application.
- This is not about being legalistic, but to help with structure and gaining greater meaning.
- If you miss a few days don't give up! Just make sure to do it tomorrow!
- Share your journey through the Bible, and insights God shows you with your family, friends, and small group!

Passage:

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Date:

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Observation

Interpretation

Application

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thur.

Fri.

Sat.

Notes/Thoughts: