

NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
How to Study the Bible

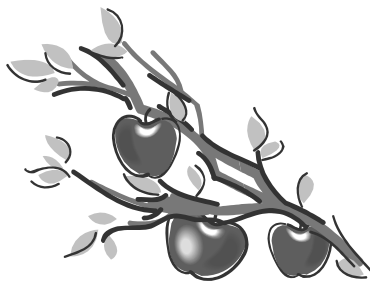
Observation – *What does it say?*

- *Who? What? Where? When?*
- What is the tone or mood?
- Is there a cause and effect relationship?
- Who was the passage originally written to?
- What are the central events or person?
- Is there a sequence and progression of events or ideas?
- What happened if it is a story?
- Are there contrasts, repeated words or ideas?



Interpretation – *What does it mean?*

- *Why?*
- What is implied by the observation?
- What was the background for this passage?
- Why was this written?
- What form of literature is this – history, poetry, prophecy, parable, teaching?



If meanings are unclear:

- Take words to mean what they usually do in their proper sense. Use a dictionary.
- Check the context. Consider the culture of that day, the Bible as a whole, the particular book. Go with what is most natural – not the most tricky or obtuse.
- Come to the Word impartially, without preconceived ideas as to what it means. Seek the Holy Spirit's assistance through prayer.

Application – *What does this mean to me?*

- Is there an example for me to follow or avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a warning for me to heed?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a universal truth to embrace?



*Taste and see that the LORD is good.*  
Psalm 34:8

Surrendering to what you've learned:

- Christ links understanding the truth with obeying it – knowing and doing!
- The object of Bible study is to be confronted by God and to respond to him.
- Seek for a specific application to your life.
- Pray about what the Lord is showing you.
- Trust him for his help in following through.