

Studying, Interpreting and Applying the Bible
Observation: The Role of a Detective, pp. 77-97

Observation: *The recording of what may be seen in a selected method of Bible study*

Have the Right Mental Attitude (pp. 78-79)

- 1) *Observation requires an act of the will*
- 2) *Observation requires a persistence to know*
- 3) *Observation requires patience*
- 4) *Observation required diligent recording*
- 5) *Observation requires caution*
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Use the Six Basic Questions (pp. 80-81)

- 1) *Who? - Who is the subject of the passage? Who is the object of the passage? Who is speaking?*
- 2) *What? - What is happening in the passage? What is the subject doing? What is happening to the object in the passage? What type of passage is this: Poetry? Narrative? Direct teaching? Prophetic? etc. What is the context of the passage? What is the atmosphere of this passage: Calm? Emotionally intense? Fearful? Rejoicing? What words do I need to look up to understand? What is God doing in this passage? What do I learn about God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit in this passage?*
- 3) *When? - When do the events in the passage take place? Or will take place? What time sequences is there in the passage? What events occur before or after?*
- 4) *Where? - Where does the passage take place? What places do the passages talk about? What are the characteristics of those places?*
- 5) *Why? - Why are the subjects doing what they are doing? Why is this passage included in the Bible - particular book, chapter, passage? Why were particular words in the passage used? (Lexical/syntactical)*
- 6) *How? How should this passage affect my life? How would I have handled the situation? How did God work in this passage? How does this passage relate to other parts of Scripture?*

Discover the Form or Structure of the Passage Under Study (pp. 81-83)

How does the writer deal with the content? What form or structure does he use? - What literary devices does the writer use to convey his message?

- 1) Relating the way things are: Relational - use of common experience to make the point
- 2) Admonition or exhortation : Commands to obey. Errors to avoid
- 3) Teaching: Instruction in truth / revelation of doctrine
- 4) Parables: A particular type of teaching using stories that could be true
- 5) Narrative: Presenting an historical accounting of events that took place
- 6) Other methods:
 - Proverbs -
 - Poetry -
 - Prophecy -
 - Apocalyptic / eschatological -

Find the Key Words (pp. 83-85)
See exercise assignment #2

Consider Comparisons and Contrasts (pp. 85-87)
Comparison:
Contrast:
See exercise assignment #3

Investigate the Use of Old Testament References (pp. 88)

Note the Progression of an Idea or Thought Chain (pp. 88-90)

Be Alert for Proportions (p. 90)

Example 1: The amount of written material in Acts given to particular time sequences.

Example 2:

Record Repetitions (pp. 91)

Visualize the Verbs (pp. 92)

(In Greek, the verb is the key to understanding the sentence).

Picture the Illustrations (pp. 92-94)

Examine the Explanations (pp. 94)

Be Sensitive to Connecting Words and Conjunctions (pp. 95)

See exercise assignments #4 & #6

Be Willing to Change Your Viewpoint (pp. 95-96)

Mark Your Bible as You Read (pp. 96)