

Basic Principles of an Observation Worksheet

1. Begin with Prayer.

Go to the author of the Book before you go to the Book.

2. Establish the Context. [Always remember that context is king.]

Context is the setting in which the passage occurs or simply what precedes and what follows the text you are studying.

3. Read and reread the passage, looking for and listing:

a. The obvious things:

People

Places

Events

b. Repeated words or phrases

(Begin by marking all references to God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit and other names and pronouns referring to the Trinity.)

c. Contrasts

d. Lists

4. Mark the Key Words or Key Phrases.

These are words or phrases that are vital to the understanding of the text. They are often identified [but not always] by the fact that they are repeated.

5. As you encounter the Key Word or Key Phrase, interrogate it by asking the “5W’s and H”.

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?

6. Look for Terms of Conclusion. Words Like:

Therefore

For

So

So That

So When

For This Reason

Consequently

[When you see one of these words, ask: Why is it there?]

7. Now, title the Passage, using as few words as possible. **THINK** and Summarize!