

The OIA Bible Study Method

- Get a journal/notebook
- Write down your passage in its entirety if it is short enough
- PRAY! before, during, and after. No exegetical sweat is a substitute for the Holy Spirit

1. Observation

- Here you gather pieces of information
- Context – Start here!
 - Bible – What overarching redemptive themes are here? What testament am I in? What new or old covenant realities should I have in mind?
 - Book – Who is the author? Who is the audience? Why is the author writing this? Is there false teaching or problems in the church? What are those? (Study Bibles can be helpful for finding this kind of information)
 - Surrounding Verses – Where do my verses fall in the storyline here or in the argument that is being made?
- State the obvious
- Note what sticks out to you – what makes you say “huh”?
- Ask questions
- Make a grammar diagram – note nouns, verbs, subjects, connecting words, adjectives, etc.
- Define words – define them in the original languages ideally (*Strong’s Concordance, Vine’s Expository Dictionary of NT Words, Blue Letter Bible*)
- Look up cross references – get a Bible that has them, *Blue Letter Bible* too
- Compare different Bible translations – all available for free online or just use the Bibles you already have

2. Interpretation

- Here you put all the pieces together
- Exegesis, not eisegesis – the meaning arises out of the text itself
- Don’t over spiritualize
- State the plain meaning of the text – we aren’t looking for the secret or hidden meaning

3. Application

- Here you bring it home
- Ask three questions - the first is the most important!
 - What does this teach me about God?
 - What does this teach me about myself?
 - What does this teach me about others?
- PINGA acronym
 - P** – Praise (What can I praise God about from this text?)
 - I** – Idols (What idols may arise if I forget this truth?)
 - N** – Needs (What needs do I have in light of this passage?)
 - G** – Grace/Gospel (Where is the grace of God and His gospel seen here?)
 - A** – Apply (What would change about me if I truly believed this deeply?)