



Methods

How to Read the Bible Well

OBSERVATION: WHAT DO I SEE?

Like a detective, it's helpful to first **pause and process** before drawing any conclusions.

WIN

To begin the habit of making quality observations

CONNECT

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions as a group.

1. How often do you read or study the Bible? If not as often as you want, what keeps you from it? Any of these?

Schedule • Doesn't Seem Urgent • Overwhelming • Already Familiar • Unsure How To Start • Unmotivated

2. What's something about this study that you hope will be helpful?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, help us better understand the Bible so that we can better understand and follow you. Amen.

After praying, watch the video for **Part 1: Observation**.

DISCUSS

Prior to watching this week's video in group, discuss the following.

1. Was any of the information in the video new to you? If so, what part?
2. Did the video change or inform the way you think about or perhaps approach the Bible? If so, how?
3. As Dr. Howard Hendricks said, "The more time you spend in observation, the less time you'll have to spend in interpretation and the more accurate your results." Why is that true? How can that principle carry over into other parts of our lives?





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4. Look at this list of types of literature in the Bible. Based on your wiring, which of these is most interesting to you? Why?
Historical Narrative • Ancient Law • Poetry • Wise Sayings • Prophecy • Parables • Epistles
5. Why is it so important to understand the type of literature you're reading when you open the Bible?

LUKE 8:22–25

We'll be using the following passage throughout our three sessions together:

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. In terms of type of literature, Luke 8:22–25 is:
(Circle One) **Historical Narrative • Ancient Law • Poetry • Wise Saying • Prophecy • Parable • Epistle**
2. Write **10** or more observations about the passage. It's helpful to ask yourself detective-type questions: **Who** is the audience in the story? **What** was occurring? **When** is this happening? **Where** is this? **How** are people responding?

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer being thankful for the opportunity to have copies of the Bible that are so easily accessible.

