

Getting the Most Out of Your Bible Study

STEP #1: OBSERVATION - continued

REVIEW:

- Who has the answers to the observation questions?
- Block exercise...
- Review 10 tips from last week.

Now that we have spent time on sharpening our observation skills and have had a week to become better at “how to observe”, lets take a look at “what to observe.” If you don’t know what you are looking for you probably wont find it!

III. Six “**Don’t Misses**” When You Are Observing.A. Things that are **Emphasized**1. Amount of **Space**:

- Genesis: 50 chapters; 1 –11 from creation – Babel; 12 – 50 lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph
- Ephesians: 6 chapters; 1 – 3 doctrine; 4 – 6 practical living
- Romans: 16 chapters; 1 – 11 doctrine; 12 – 16 practical living

2. Stated **Purpose**:

- Proverbs 1:2 – 6
- John 20:30

3. **Order**

- Is work a part of the Curse? (Genesis 2:15; 3:17 – 24)

4. Movement from the **Lesser** to the **Greater** or the reverse:

- 2 Samuel is the history of the life of David. Chapters 11,12 are the pivot point in his life.

B. Things that are **Repeated**1. Terms, **Phrases**, Clauses

- Psalm 150: What do you think the Psalmist wants us to do after reading this Psalm?
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-28: ‘*if*’ is repeated 7 times. This little word is repeated to emphasize that everything we believe is dependant on the Resurrection.

2. **Characters**

- See how Barnabas’ role changes in Acts 4 – 15

3. **Incidents** or Circumstances

- What circumstances are repeated in the book of Judges?

4. **Patterns**, Similar and Dissimilar

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- Contrast Saul with David in 1 & 2 Samuel.
5. **Quotations** of the Old Testament in the New Testament
- If you have a Bible that shows you where the quote is coming from it is always helpful to go back and see the original context of the quote.

C. Things that are **Related**

1. Movement from the **General** to the Specific:
 - Matthew 6:1 gives a general principle, followed by three specific examples.
2. Questions and **Answers**:
 - Sometimes there is an actual question followed by an answer (Romans 6:1).
 - Other times there is a question with an unstated but assumed answer (Job 38:3).
3. Cause and **Effect**:
 - What is the “cause” and what is the “effect” in Psalm 1 or Joshua 1:8?

D. Things that are **Alike**, and **Unalike**1. **Similes**

- A comparison of two things using “like” or “as.”
- Psalm 42:1
- We must be careful to clearly understand what is being compared and not take the comparison further than the a/Author intended.

2. **Metaphors**

- Usually a broader comparison without the use of “like” or “as”.
- John 15:1
- We must be careful to clearly understand what is being compared and not take the comparison further than the a/Author intended.

3. Use of **“but”**

- Often indicates a difference between two things or concepts that is being emphasized.
- Galatians 5:19 – 22

4. **Irony**

- A statement in which the implicit meaning of the words differs from the explicit use of the words.
- 1 Kings 18:27

E. Things that are True to **Life**

- Look for things that you can immediately relate to. Don't ONLY look for these things, because often there are things you can relate to that you don't see at first glance, but more study reveals. However, often God will have something for you that will “jump right off the page.”

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IV. **Summarize** Your Observations.A. **Organize** Your Observations.

1. As you study a section of Scripture try to divide it up into paragraphs. Remember that a paragraph address one distinct subject.
 - At this point it is helpful to use a Bible that does not do this for you.
2. In a notebook or directly in your Bible write one sentence summary statements for each paragraph.

B. **Outlines** or Charts.

1. After you have studied through an entire section (like the Sermon on the Mount) go back using your summary statements and try to make an outline.
2. After you have studied through an entire book go back using your summary statements and try to make an outline.

PRACTICE FOR NEXT WEEK:

1. Read Deuteronomy chapters 1 –5 in your favorite version in one sitting. Also read chapter 6 again in each of the three versions given here at least once and make a note of all your observations.
2. Try to divide chapter 6 into paragraphs.
3. Take you list of observations from each paragraph and try to make a one sentence summary statement for each paragraph.