

# S

## cripture

Select the book or verses you will study together. Great places to start are: John, Ruth, Philippians or passages from sermon preached on Sunday.

# O

## bserve



At first, practice Observation, Interpretation and Application together. Give time for each person to share after each step.

# A

## pplication

Once members of the group feel comfortable with the 3 steps, move the steps to homework and use the group time for discussing the truths discovered.

# P

## ayer

Spend time praying as a group.

## How to Study the Bible.

### Step 1: Observation:

*What do I see?*

- 1. Terms**
  - Routine and Non-Routine
  - Literal and Figurative
  - Parts of Speech
- 2. Structure**
  - Repetition
  - Cause and Effect
  - Compare/Contrast
  - Q&A
- 3. Literary Form**
  - Prose
  - Poetry
  - Narrative
- 4. Atmosphere/Mood**
  - Joy
  - Despair
  - Thanksgiving
  - Tenderness

### Questions for Observations

**Who?** = Key Persons

**What?** = Key Events

**When?** = Key Times

**Where?** = Key Places

**Why?** = Key Ideas

**How?** = Key Sources

## Step 2: Interpretation:

*What does it mean?*

**Seek to understand the author's:**  
intent, emotions, thoughts, culture

**The question is the KEY!**

### Phase 1: Definitive Questions

- *What do the terms mean?*
- *What is the structure?*
- *What is the literary form?*
- *What is the atmosphere?*

### Phase 2: Rationale Questions

- *Why these terms?*
- *Why this structure?*
- *Why this literary form?*
- *Why this atmosphere?*

### Phase 3: Implication Questions

- *What do the terms imply?*
- *What does the structure imply?*
- *What does the lit form imply?*
- *What does the atmosphere imply?*

### Principles

#### Come with faith and openness

- *Do I bring a personal bias?*
- *Am I trusting Holy Spirit?*

#### Use the Scriptures!

- *Cross references*

#### Consult resources

- *Books*
- *Websites*

## Step 3: Application:

*How does it work?*

**How is the passage understood within these relationship?**

### Your Relationship to God:

- Fellowship to enjoy
- Commands to obey
- Promises to claim
- Prayers to express

### Your Relationship to yourself:

- Past background and heritage
- Present experience
- Personal values, priorities, standards
- Future expectations

### Your Relationship to others:

- In the home
- In the church
- In society
- In the world

### Your Relationship to the enemy:

- A person to resist
- Devices to recognize
- Sins to avoid
- Armor to wear