

OIA Method

Hebrews 12:3–17 NIV11-GK

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **4** In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5** And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, **6** because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” **7** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? **8** If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. **9** Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! **10** They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. **11** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. **12** Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. **13** “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. **14** Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. **15** See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. **16** See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. **17** Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

OIA Method

<http://www.knowableword.com>

The acronym **OIA** summarizes the method:

1. **Observation** – what does it say?
2. **Interpretation** – what does it mean?
3. **Application** – how do I need to change?

1. Observation - What does it say?

(The greatest enemy of observation is familiarity)

5 things to observe

- i. Words
- ii. Grammar
- iii. Structure
- iv. Genre
- v. Mood

2. Interpretation - What does it mean?

- i. Ask questions
- ii. Answer questions
- iii. Determine the main point

3. Application - How do I need to change?

- i. Two directions for application
 - a. inward application

Work on becoming more Christ-like people who love God more desperately

- b. outward application

Work on becoming more selfless people of influence who love others as Christ has loved us

- ii. Remember Jesus in your application
 - iii. Be specific in your application

1. Observation –

To begin with, read through the passage and on the page mark & scribble anything that catches your attention.

Words: Pay attention to the words. Count up how many times different words are repeated. Notice how different things are described or labeled.

(I circle all the connecting words like ‘for’, ‘thus’, ‘so that’, ‘but’ etc)

Grammar: Identify the subject, verb, and object of a sentence. What are the main verbs? Who is doing what, and where and how are they doing it?

Structure: How does the passage fit together? Break it into paragraphs. Pay attention to transitions.

Genre: Is this poetry or prose? A letter or a narrative? Who is the author? Who is the original audience? (Is there a reference to other Scripture here)

Mood: What tone of “voice” is the author writing with? Does the passage inspire action, invoke emotion, or challenge assumptions?

2. Interpretation

i. **Ask questions** - People might already have questions from the first read through, but now get them to read through the passage again and ask if anyone has any questions, and list them.

(Remember Kipling's 6 friends - What, Why, When, How, Where & Who)

ii. **Answer questions** - now as a group work at answering the questions *from the passage!!* (Ask people where that answer came from in the passage)

iii. **Determine the main point** - We're after more than a summary of what the author wrote, we want to do our best to figure out *WHY* he wrote it.

3. Application

Now we understand the passage we're ready to take what we've learned and put it into practice. Use whatever method/s you prefer. See Peter Krol's or try “How does it apply to me/you now?”

4. Prayer

You could try TAPS. (Thanks, Ask, Passage, Someone.)

Pray for things you want to give thanks for, things you want to ask God about, something you have learned about from the passage or you need to change, and pray for some you can talk to about Jesus or what you have learnt.