

# 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.

## OIA Method

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 NIV11-GK

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.