

# OIA Method

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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 15:12-34 NIV11-GK

**12** But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **24** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. **28** When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. **29** Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? **30** And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? **31** I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. **32** If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” **33** Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” **34** Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.