

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.

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1 Corinthians 15:35-49 NIV11-GK

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” **36** How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. **38** But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. **39** Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. **40** There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. **41** The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. **42** So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46** The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48** As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.”