

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 15:50-58 NIV11-GK

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” **55** “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.