

Having an Effective Quiet Time

I. Preparation

- A. Remove as many distractions as possible (noise, sleepiness, etc.)
- B. Pray and ask God to help you by revealing truths from His word (Ps 119:18).
- C. Read the chapter the passage is taken from several times, reading from several versions can be helpful.

II. Identifying Principles

- A. **Observation** (What does the verse say?)
 - 1. Observation statements - make as many statements about what the verse says taken directly from the verse.
 - 2. Observation questions - Who, what, when, where, how, why, why not. (Remember, you are trying to answer the question: “what does it say?”)
 - 3. Continue observations by using RARE and QICD(see back).
- B. **Interpretation** (What does the verse mean?)
 - 1. Answer all observational questions that reveal the **CONTEXT** of the verse.
 - a. Read before and after the verse you are studying
 - b. Note obvious background information (word to sentence to passage to book) Writer, audience, why is he writing?
 - 2. Make a **COMPARISON** cross-referencing the verse.
 - a. Always interpret scripture with scripture
 - 3. Answer questions about the **CULTURE** in which it was written
 - a. Bible handbooks are helpful with unanswered cultural questions
 - 4. Look to commentaries and handbooks for **CONSULTATION**.

III. **Summarize your observations and interpretations** by identifying two to four principles from the above study (these are timeless truths that you conclude from your study). Key: These statements will be true for anyone, anywhere, anytime.

IV. **Application** (What does the verse mean to me?)

- A. Make one to two applications from your study and pray over these using the **SPECK** method.
- S - Sin to confess
 - P - Promise to claim
 - E - Example to follow
 - C - Command to obey
 - K - Knowledge about God that will develop my relationship with Him.
- B. Determine a practical action step that you can take to live out your application.

Looking for RARE Observations

Results: Explanation, conclusions, and contrast

Key words : because, if, since,...,then, therefore, but

Admonition: Directive, promise, or warning (our part)

Affirmation: Key words: shall, will (God's part)

Related: Cause/effect, metaphor, comparison

Key words: as, like

Emphasized: repeated or given attention

QICD

Question Words: 5W's who, what, when, where, why

Inflection: emphasize different words in the passage

Comparisons: Look at other versions (mostly done in Interpretation section)

Definitions: Define Key words