

# Table of Contents

---

<b>The Process for Understanding Scripture</b> . . . . .	<b>5</b>
<b>Read.</b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
<b>Observe</b> . . . . .	<b>8</b>
When Studying a Book or Chapter . . . . .	9
When Studying a Passage . . . . .	18
Find the Main Point . . . . .	26
<b>Interpret</b> . . . . .	<b>29</b>
<b>Apply</b> . . . . .	<b>33</b>
<b>Appendix.</b> . . . . .	<b>35</b>
Resources . . . . .	36
My Codes . . . . .	38
Grammar Marking Guide . . . . .	39
Notes . . . . .	40
About Truth78 . . . . .	41

## Sample

Truth is never determined by looking at God's Word and asking, "What does this mean to me?" Whenever I hear someone talk like that, I'm inclined to ask, "What did the Bible mean before you existed? What does God mean by what He says?" Those are the proper questions to be asking. Truth and meaning are not determined by our intuition, experience, or desire. The true meaning of Scripture—or anything else, for that matter—has already been determined and fixed by the mind of God.

—John MacArthur. *The Truth War: Fighting for Certainty in an Age of Deception*. (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2007)

# Observe

## What does the passage say?

---

In *observation*, you will dig deeper and try to discover the author's intended meaning of the text. The following rules will give you the needed tools for effective observation and study of a passage.

Take your time. Write down your observations. This will slow you down and encourage you to think. Writing things down helps you to observe what you might otherwise miss.

John Piper reminds us, *“Writing is a way of seeing that is deeper and sharper than most other ways. We see more when we write than when we just read.*

*I know not how the light is shed, nor understand this lens.  
I only know that there are eyes in pencils and in pens.”*

### Look at the Context

*“Context is king!”*

The importance of the context of the passage cannot be overstated and should be your first consideration in observation.

1. Study the immediate context—verse, paragraph, chapter.
2. Study the broader context—book, Bible.
3. Read the chapter/book in one sitting many times. (Divide long books into sections; read each section in one sitting.)

## Sample

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)*

This is a promise Jesus gave His disciples before He went to the cross. But it wasn't for them alone. For every follower of Christ, as you read God's Word, the Holy Spirit will open your mind and heart to receive the Word, and then to bring it to mind to encourage, strengthen, convict, direct, and instruct you. However, the promise of the Holy Spirit's illuminating work does *not* negate our responsibility to be like the Bereans in Acts 17, “examining the Scriptures daily.”

This booklet has been written to help you diligently study Scripture in order to understand it correctly and delve more deeply into the God-intended meaning of His Word by employing the following four steps:

- 1. Read:** Regularly read your Bible with purpose, recording your thoughts and questions, as you get to know God better.
- 2. Observe:** Dig deeper into the passage and analyze the context, grammar, literary techniques, and historical setting to discover the author's intended meaning.
- 3. Interpret:** Use the Bible to interpret the Bible! Use sound principles of interpretation, check cross references, and consult an expert to discern the biblical principle of the text.
- 4. Apply:** Discover how God wants you to respond to the passage using life application questions and considering the action step you can take. Ask: What should I think? What should I be? What should I do?

---

Sally Michael is a prolific author of curricula, books, and resources for parents and children. She co-founded Truth78 with her husband, David, out of a passion for developing resources to teach the whole counsel of God to children in the church and home. She served for 16 years as minister to children under the leadership of John Piper, whose preaching and teaching helped form the theological and doctrinal commitments that define her writing. David and Sally have two daughters, a son-in-law, and three grandchildren. They live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Truth78 is a vision-oriented ministry for the next generations—that they may know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

**Truth:78** /

Equipping the Next Generations  
to Know, Honor, and Treasure God

Truth78.org

