

Here is some Pre-Reading to do before Session Three

Session 3 - Observation: What Does the Text Say?

Before Session Three, please read through this short page and the Bible passages listed below. You do not need to write full answers, and this is not a test. Read slowly, notice what is actually there, and bring any honest thoughts or questions with you.

Main Thought

Before we ask what a passage means, we need to slow down and notice what it says.

Observation is the first simple step in Bible study. It means looking carefully at the words in front of us before we rush ahead to interpretation or application.

Many misunderstandings happen because we move too quickly. We read a verse, connect it to our own situation, and start applying it before we have really asked: **Who** is speaking? **Who** is being spoken to? **What** is happening? **What** words are repeated? Is there a *command, warning, promise, question, or example*?

Good observation does not require a university degree. It requires patience, attention, and a willingness to let the text speak. Even simple noticing can open the passage up in a helpful way.

A Word of Encouragement

You do not have to see everything in a passage at once. In fact, you will not. That is normal.

The goal is not to find impressive answers. The goal is to learn to read carefully and honestly. Sometimes the most faithful thing you can say is, “I notice this,” or “I am not sure what this means yet.”

That is still Bible study. You are learning to pay attention to the Word God has given. The Lord is patient with His people, and His Word is able to teach us as we keep coming back to it with humility.

A Few Simple Things to Look For

When you read a passage this week, simply notice:

- **People** – who is mentioned?
- **Places** – where is this happening?
- **Actions** – what are people doing?
- **Words** – are any words, phrases, or ideas repeated?
- **Questions** – what questions are being asked?
- **Responses** – how do people respond?
- *Commands, warnings, promises, or examples* – is anything clearly stated?

Please Read These Passages Before Session Three

1. Proverbs 18:13

As you read, simply notice:

- What warning is given in this verse?
- How might this apply to reading the Bible too quickly?
- Why is listening carefully important before answering?

2. Nehemiah 8:1-8

As you read, simply notice:

- What do the people do when the Word is read?
- What do the teachers help the people understand?
- What does this show us about reading carefully and seeking understanding?

3. Mark 4:35-41

As you read, simply notice:

- Who is in the story?
- What happens in the boat?
- What does Jesus say, and what do the disciples say?
- What change happens from the beginning of the passage to the end?

4. Luke 10:25-37

As you read, simply notice:

- What questions are asked?
- What characters appear in the parable?
- What does each person do?
- What instruction does Jesus give at the end?

5. Acts 17:10-12

As you read, simply notice:

- How are the Bereans described?
- What did they do with the Scriptures?
- What does this show us about receiving teaching carefully?

One Simple Thing to Bring next time we catch up.

Before Session Three, read **Mark 4:35-41** one more time and write down three things you notice.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

They do not need to be deep or impressive. Simple observations are exactly what we are practising.

Closing Thought

Observation teaches us to slow down and listen to Scripture before we speak for Scripture.

We are not trying to force the Bible to say something. We are learning to notice what God has placed in the text, so that we can understand it more faithfully and respond to Him more honestly.

The goal is simple: read carefully, notice honestly, and trust that God can teach you through His Word.