Re-Fuel: THE WORD Week 3

THIS WEEK'S DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
FROM OBSERVATION TO INTERPRETATION

Big Idea: Faithful interpretation discovers what Scripture means by examining the text, understanding its context, and allowing Scripture to explain Scripture.

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK

Last week, you received your seven-day Interpretation Guide. This week, we're going to put what we've learned into practice.

Choose TWO passages from your previous guide that you have already studied.

Your goal is not to discover something nobody else has ever noticed. Your goal is to understand faithfully what God has communicated.

STEP 1 — READ THE PASSAGE AGAIN
Read your selected passage slowly, using the HCSB or another trustworthy translation.

Read the verses immediately before and after your passage to understand the context.

STEP 2 — REVIEW YOUR OBSERVATIONS
Look back at what you wrote previously.

Ask yourself:

- Who is involved, and what is happening?
- What questions, commands, or important statements appear?
- What words or ideas repeat?
- What is the central issue or conflict?

Remember: Observation asks, "What does it say?"

STEP 3 — INVESTIGATE THE CONTEXT
Before deciding what the passage means, ask:

- Who wrote this book, and to whom?
- What was happening when this passage was written?
- Why was this event or teaching included?
- How does the surrounding passage help explain it?

STEP 4 — WRITE YOUR INTERPRETATION
In one sentence, explain what you believe the biblical author intended to communicate.

Avoid beginning with "This means to me..."

Instead, try: "This passage teaches..." or "The author is communicating..."

STEP 5 — SUPPORT YOUR INTERPRETATION
Find THREE observations or verses that support your conclusion.

Ask yourself:
"Can I demonstrate this meaning from Scripture, or am I bringing my own assumptions into the passage?"

MY INTERPRETATION WORKSHEET

PASSAGE ONE: Scripture Reference:

The central meaning in one sentence:

Three observations or verses that support my interpretation:
1.

2.

3.

One question I still have:

PASSAGE TWO: Scripture Reference:

The central meaning in one sentence:

Three observations or verses that support my interpretation:
1.

2.

3.

One question I still have:

BEFORE NEXT WEDNESDAY:

Take a few minutes to consider:
Did studying the context change how I understood either passage?

What did I learn about interpreting Scripture correctly?

Bring this completed worksheet and your Bible to ReFuel next Wednesday.

NEXT WEEK — APPLICATION

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

We've learned:
OBSERVATION — What does it say?

INTERPRETATION — What does it mean?

Now we're preparing for:
APPLICATION — What should I do?

Remember: We don't study Scripture to make it agree with us. We study Scripture so that God's truth can shape us.