



THE WORD OF GOD

OBSERVATION OF SCRIPTURE

Observation 101: Learning to Listen Before We Apply

Observation is the practice of slowing down to ask, “What does the text actually say?” Before we ask, “What does this mean for me?” or “What should I do with this?” we first want to notice what God has actually said in the passage. Observation is about listening carefully, understanding rightly, and coming to Scripture with humility before the God who has spoken. We observe so we can understand; we understand so we can see Jesus clearly; and we see clearly so we can respond faithfully. **Faithful application begins with careful observation.**

As You Read, Ask:

- Who is involved?
- What is happening?
- Where and when is this taking place?
- What words, ideas, or phrases are repeated?
- What questions are being asked?
- What commands, warnings, promises, or contrasts do you notice?
- What problem is being addressed?
- What changes from the beginning of the passage to the end?

Look Around the Passage

- **Genre:** What kind of writing is this? History, prophecy, poetry, wisdom, letter, gospel, or something else?
- **Context:** What comes before and after this passage?
- **Original Audience:** Who first heard or received this? What would they have understood?
- **Plain Meaning:** What is the author actually communicating?

As we continue reading through the Bible together, use the questions above to practice observation before application.

Date	Reading
July 13	2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9–12
July 14	Micah 1–7
July 15	2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16–17
July 16	Isaiah 13–17
July 17	Isaiah 18–22
July 18	Isaiah 23–27