

Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Personal Bible Study

Lesson 2 - Observation

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Martin Luther said that he studies the bible as one who gathers apples, “First I shake the whole tree, that the ripest may fall. Then I climb the tree and shake each limb, and then each branch and then each twig, and then I look under each leaf.”

“Most read their Bibles like cow that stand in thick grass, and trample under their feet the finest flowers and herbs.” – Charles Spurgeon

Observation deals with looking at text to find what is there.

In observation you are asking questions of the text.

Who – Who is the author of the text? Who is the audience of the text? Who is the subject of the text?

What – What is the author’s intention for writing? What is the main idea? What is the subject of the text? What is the literary style? (narrative, conversation, parable, prophecy, poetry, epistle)

When – When was this written? What is the culture of this time?

Where – Where geographically was this written? Where was the writer? (temple, Palace, pit, mountain)

Why – Why was this written?

How – How was this received? How was the message delivered? How was it said?

Observation should not be confused with interpretation.

Interpretation deals with what the passage means or what did God mean by what he said.

During observation you are only looking at the text to see what it says. Not trying to explain what it means. During observation you should **NOT** use any other book but the bible

Things that should stand out to you:

Words or phrases that are repeated.

Locations given.

Times given.

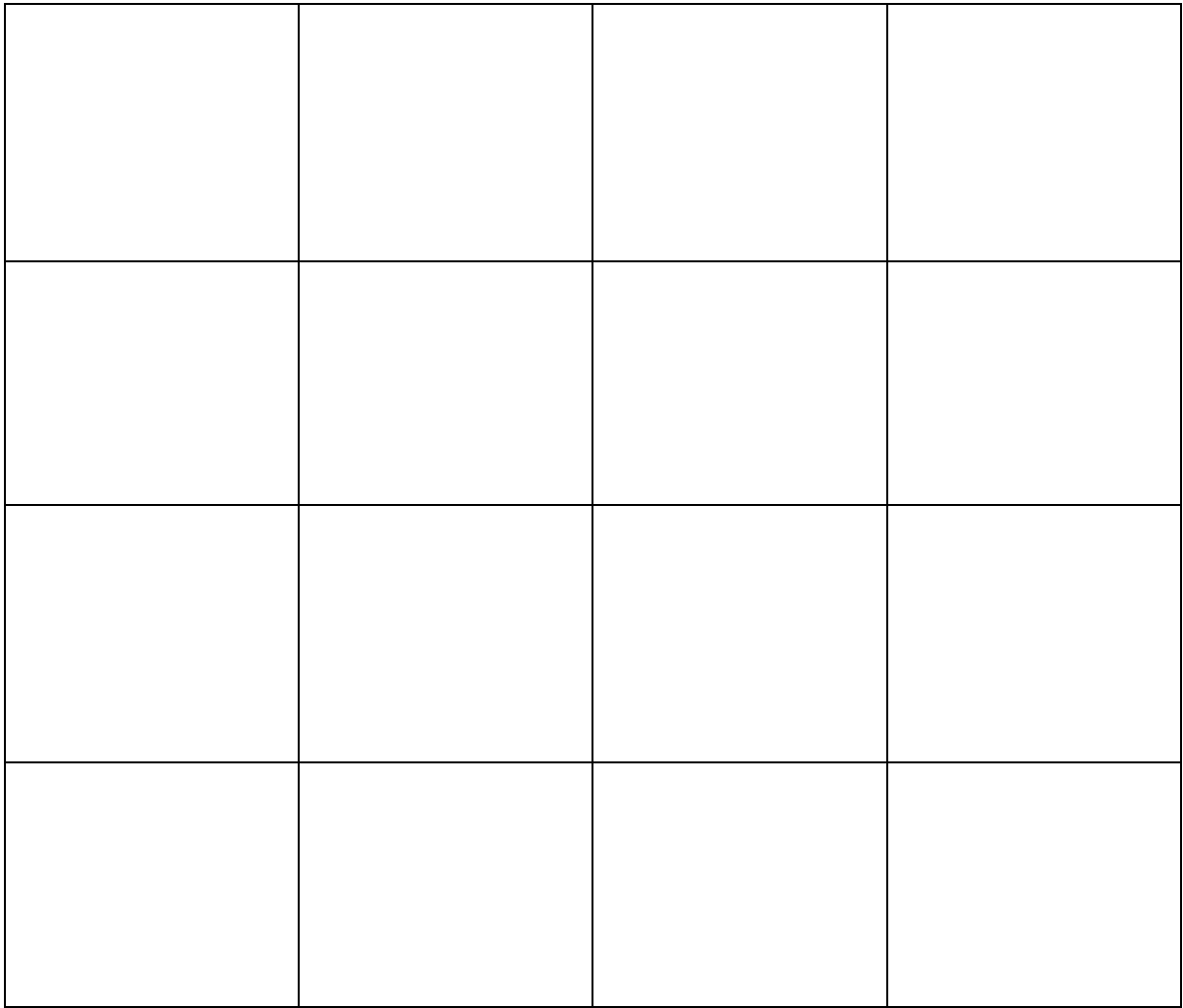
Names given.

Put it to Work:

2 Samuel 11:1-6

Psalms 13

Luke 22:31-34



How many squares do you see?

Observe Psalm 23. Write your observation.