

HOW TO DO A CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The Inductive method of Bible Study is built on three basic steps:

Observation
Interpretation
Application

When we do a chapter overview we are doing the observation portion of the Inductive method

- Observation teaches you to accurately see what the passage actually says. It is on the basis of good observation that we arrive at correct interpretation of the meaning of the text and the correct application of these truths to our Christian life.
- Observation answers the question, "What does the passage say?"

There are 7 components to a thorough Chapter overview. It would be good to record your observations on papers that you can add to your study book.

★ 1. ASK THE FIVE "W's" and an H

For example:

WHO is speaking and to whom is he speaking?

WHAT are the topics that are being discussed or event that are happening in the chapter?

WHEN are things happening or is there an order of events or order to his thoughts?

WHERE did or will this event happen?

WHY is this being done or why is it important?

HOW will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

★ 2. MARK KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

How to identify key words:

- A key word is of such importance to the meaning that, if it was removed, the meaning would be lost.
- Key words are often repeated
- Key words often form the topics being examined or discussed.

(However you decide to mark such things in your Bible, determine to be consistent in your use of colors, symbols, or a combination of both throughout in order to capture important themes that transcend just a single passage of Scripture.)

3. LOOK FOR LISTS

- Lists are used by the author to fill out the meaning or implications of a truth. They are useful because they simplify the truths being examined.
- List put limits on what we can think and they broaden our thoughts to include things we might otherwise miss.

Example: The fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5; the types on soil in Mark 4

Lists are the building blocks to developing something usually described in the much more intimidating terms “doctrine” and “theology”.

4. LOOK FOR CONTRASTS AND COMPARISONS

- A *contrast* is a comparison of things that are different or opposite, such as light/darkness, proud/humble, good/evil. The word *but* often indicates a contrast to something just stated.
- A *comparison* points out similarities and is most often indicated in the use of words such as *like, as, as it were*.

These small words are great eye-openers in the process of observation as they set the words on either side of them into their proper context.

5. LOOK FOR EXPRESSIONS OF TIME / TIMING

- Time is often directly indicated such as “during the reign of”, “on the tenth day”, “at the feast of”, etc., etc. Sometimes the context is as much about when, or its relationship to a past or present event, as it is the person, place, or thing mentioned.
- Pay attention to words such as *until, then, when, and after* as they reveal the relationship of one event to another.

6. LOOK FOR TERMS OF CONCLUSION

- These words tell us that the author is wrapping up his present thought
- They connect the truths being revealed with application to our lives. They answer the question of “So what?”
- *Wherefore, therefore, for this reason, and finally* are examples of terms of conclusion

★ 7. WRAPPING IT UP

a) TRY TO IDENTIFY A KEY VERSE

b) GIVE THE CHAPTER A TITLE THAT EXPRESSES THE THEME