

COMA Method

The COMA method of Bible study is way to go deeper into a passage, making sure you aren't misinterpreting a passage. It is built on the principles of Observation, Interpretation, and Application (OIA). It is especially helpful when you are studying a whole book of the Bible.

Context:

- What's the historical context of the passage? (When, why and to whom was it written)
- What's the literary context? (Where does it fall in it's book or letter, what genre is it, what comes before and after this passage)
- What does this passage say about the author or audience's circumstances?
- What was the passage just before this one talking about? What was the main point? What was the logical connection or what's the theme?

Observation:

- What "jumps out" to you in the passage?
- What's interesting? Is something repeated? Is there a list of things and if so what's the connection or order?
- What key details do you observe?
- Is there connecting words or ideas (like Therefore, For, But, Because, etc)? Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text?
- What is the main point or points of this passage? What supporting points does the author make?
- What surprise are there in the flow of the argument?

Meaning:

- How does this text relate to other parts of the book?
- How does this passage relate to Jesus?
- What does this teach you about God?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words? (What's the author's "big idea" of the passage?)

Application:

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?