

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study  
FMZBC Four Step Strategy – Worship/**Study of the Word**/Stewardship/Service  
April 16, 2025

**Lesson Focus:** How To Study the Bible: Observation-Interpretation-Life Application

Gospel of John 4:1-42

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**Introduction:** Today and next week, we will conclude this month's focus on the *Study of the Word* using the Inductive Method of study (**O**bservation, **I**nterpretation and **L**ife Application) or OIL. The primary goals are to observe and interpret the biblical text that the author intended to communicate and to apply those teachings in everyday life.

- Observe the overall “landscape” of the text by reading in entirety (*Note: Chapter and/or Book differs*)
- Employ Six Journalistic Questions:
  - Who – identify who is involved in the passage; who is speaking to whom; who is doing the talking
  - What – there are several ways to phrase this question, such as “what happened in the story or what are the main ideas being expressed?”
  - When – date, time, or place that the event took place
  - Where – **Set the Scene**. “Where did the situation/incident/encounter take place; is there a particular geographical setting?”
  - Why – this question can be applied several ways such as “Why did John write the account of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman?” or “Why did Jesus reveal to the Samaritan woman that He knew her current living situation?”
  - How – sometimes the “How” may be easy, “How does Jesus approach the Samaritan woman?”; other times it may be harder to answer requiring time and patience in your study.

### **Practicing our Observation Skills - John 4: 1-42**

1. Who is involved in this passage?

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2. When did these events take place?

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3. Where did these events take place?

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4. What is going on in the story?

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5. How does Jesus approach the woman?

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6. Why was Jesus there?

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**Digging Deeper:** Now that you've made these simple observations, try digging a bit deeper and observe the text more closely. Look for the following:

- Are there any repeated words or phrases?
- Are there any peculiar words or phrases?
- Are there any comparisons and contrasts?
- Are there any figurative expressions?
- Is there anything strange in the passage?
- Can you picture yourself in the scene?

**Finally, take your time through the Observation as it is foundational to the overall impact of your study**