

## **HELPFUL LIST OF QUESTIONS**

### for “Encounters with Jesus – in the Book of John” Bible Study

#### **OBSERVE- WHAT DO THESE VERSES SAY?**

Use the following questions to make observations. **Always answer at least the first four questions.**

1. What did Jesus say?
2. What did Jesus do?
3. How did others respond?
4. What sticks out to you in this passage? Why?
5. Who is present? Are they participants or bystanders?
6. Where are they? Why are they there?
7. What happens? *Look specifically for the verbs (actions, ie: walking, \_\_\_\_\_*
8. How are things described? *Look specifically for adjectives (ie: fast, \_\_\_\_\_*
9. Is there repetition of any kind? (*of words, phrases, actions, or concepts*)
10. Are things contrasted or compared?
11. Is there a cause and effect relationship mentioned?  
(*ie: if this, then this or because of this..., since this..., for this reason..., therefore...*)
12. Are there any word pictures? (*ie: her voice is music to my ears, its, raining cats and dogs*)
13. In New Testament passages, does a verse, phrase or concept appear in the Old Testament?
14. What do you think or feel the tone of the passage is? Why?

#### **INTERPRET – WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?**

*Interpretation must be done in light of all God has shared with us in Scripture because God does not share everything He has made known to us in just one passage. So to best understand the passage we need to understand how that passage fits in with the rest of what God says in the Bible.*

Assess your ability to figure out what this passage means.

1. Write down questions you have.  
*What does this mean?, I don't understand this., I find this confusing.*
2. What am I familiar with in this passage? (*ie: water, being on a boat, sickness, sorrow, etc.*)
3. What am I unfamiliar with? (*ie: getting water from a well daily, social customs of this culture, etc.*)

Start with what you know and are familiar or comfortable.

4. The thing(s) you recorded in the Observation step that stuck out to you, why or how is it important or significant? Think through this.
5. Is there a word you want to know more about? Look it up. How you properly understand this word in light of the context of this story?
6. If there is repetition of actions, words, phrases or concepts, what is the significance of them?
7. If things are contrasted, think about the differences between those things. What picture does the contrast paint for you? Why do you think this contrast was used?
8. If things are compared, think about the similarities between those things. What pictures does the comparison paint for you? Why do you think this comparison was used?
9. If a cause and effect relationship is mentioned, how is it explained. What does it mean?

10. If a verse, phrase or concept appears in the Old Testament, how does the original context give insight into the New Testament passage?
11. What is the meaning of this word in its original language?

## **APPLICATION**

*This is where something we have learned moves from knowledge in our head to action in our mind and heart. Our new knowledge and understanding, with the help and direction of the Holy Spirit, motivates or prompts us to change some way we relate to God, ourselves or others.*

1. What do I learn about God from this passage?
2. What does what I learn about God teach me about myself and/or others?
3. How, with the help of the Holy Spirit, do I want this to change me?