CONTEXT -- Observation
What does it say?
What type of writing is it (narrative/poetry/discourse)?
What genre is it? (Prophecy, Psalm, Wisdom, Epistle, Apocalyptic, Gospel, Story)
Who wrote the book? Under what circumstances? (Not just "It says", or "The Bible says")
Key Words, Names, Phrases, Ideas
REPETITION!!!

MEANING – Interpretation
What does it mean?
Literary, (Grammatical), Historical, Inter-textual.

- **What is the original author's goal for the original audience?**
- What does this set of chapters do in the context of the book?
- What is the most controversial part?
- What is the most memorable point/argument?
- What other Scriptures are relevant (at least 3)?
    - What does the New Testament say about this (If anything)?
    - What came before that this is referencing?
    - Does this remind you of any other part of the Bible?

Look for figures of speech (simile, metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, anthropomorphism, synecdoche, metonymy, merism)
Distill your idea/impression of the passage into a single, well-worded statement.
CONTEXT

TRUTH – Principles
What truth is the author sharing?
Look for Theological Truth: **Eternal/Universal/Main** point of text itself
Something for God's people to know/do/feel
*Diagram of Biblical Truth—Theological Truth—Applied Truth

- Main Ideas: Identify the main ideas which are being stressed by the author in his/her own words and terms.
- Definition: Define the key terms the author uses to express his message.
- Relations: Follow the development of the overall argument: how has the author organized his/her ideas? What is his/her strategy for making his/her point?

AUTHORIAL INTENT

RESPONSE -- Application
Now what?
Thinking, Feeling, Doing – Complete person
Our context, not theirs.
Prayerful self-evaluation
Life change
SMART – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound

God is patient.

Bad examples:

- Whenever I get angry, I should confess immediately.
- I will try to be less critical of people I don't like.
- I will pray for people instead of getting impatient.
- I will try to be more patient, even when I don't feel like it.
- I will stop carrying grudges and being bitter.
- You should ask God to convict you about people you have
- a bad attitude against.

Good examples:

- Over the next week I will carry a notebook & pen, and
- record each time I get impatient with someone else.
- At the end of each of those days, I will confess that
- impatience, and pray for heightened awareness.
- For each of the instances I got impatient, I will consider
- how I could have handled it better.
- This next week I will identify at least 8 scriptural examples
- displaying God's patience.
- This next week I will also write at least 8 specific examples
- of God's patience in my own life.
- This month I will memorize these verses concerning
- God's patience, and recite them out loud morning and
- night, so that I can start to reprogram my instinctive
- responses: Ex 34:6-7; Rom 2:4; I Pet 3:8-9

Are there SINS which I need to confess?
Are there HABITS which I need to revise?
Are there ATTITUDES which I need to adopt or alter?
Are there PROMISES which I need to trust in?
Are there SACRIFICES which I need to consider making?
Are there POSITIVE EXAMPLES which I need to imitate?
Are there ERRORS which I need to avoid?
Are there COMMANDS which I need to obey?
Are there CHALLENGES which I need to accept?