

During observation, you ask questions and gather information. Interpretation is where you start to process that information to find spiritual lessons. Interpretation always asks two basic questions:

- 1 - What was the writer saying?**
- 2 - How does that relate to life today?**

Looking for a Spiritual Lesson. The Bible is filled with principles. **A principle is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to man.** Principles are the building blocks that form the foundation of what we believe and how we behave toward God and others. In simple terms, a principle is a spiritual lesson.

Some helpful questions to ask when looking for a spiritual lesson:

- ✦ What does this teach about God? What does it say about man?
- ✦ Is there a command to obey?
- ✦ Is there a promise to claim? A condition to that promise?
- ✦ Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?

You can draw lessons from the examples of people you read about. Some questions you may want to consider:

- ✦ How did God deal with the person or people involved?
- ✦ How did they respond to their circumstances?
- ✦ How did they conduct themselves in a crisis? How did they cope with setbacks?
- ✦ What did they accomplish? How did they influence others?
- ✦ What strengths/talents are revealed? What spiritual fruit or personal growth?
- ✦ What faults/shortcomings are exposed? Did they learn from their failures?
- ✦ How do they treat other people? Who do they depend on? Confide in?

Writing the Spiritual Lesson. A spiritual lesson should address a need or concern of life today. It should indicate a course of action.

State the spiritual lesson in one brief, simple sentence. Note: It takes time to boil it down to a short concise sentence, for the benefit of the group's understanding.

Some practical suggestions

- ✦ Look for Scripture that backs up the lesson.
- ✦ Don't pressure yourself to come up with something profound. Your goal is to make the lesson clear, easy to remember and practical to apply.