

Observing the Content of the Biblical Text

WHO is in the text (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?

God the Father		
Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I, me, my, mine	we, us, our, ours, ourselves
2nd	you, your, yours, yourself	
3rd	he, him, his (God, Father)	

Jesus the Son		
Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I, me, my, mine	we, us, our, ours, ourselves
2nd	you, your, yours, yourself	
3rd	he, him, his (Lord, Jesus, Christ, Son)	

Holy Spirit		
Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I, me, my, mine	we, us, our, ours, ourselves
2nd	you, your, yours, yourself	
3rd	he, him, his (Holy Spirit, Spirit)	

*Note: Highlighting each reference in the text for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in orange is intended to draw attention to and illustrate the unity of God, while underlining the Son (blue) and Holy Spirit (red) is intended to distinguish between the three persons of the trinity.

WHO else is in the text?

Anyone Else Other Than God		
Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I, me, my, mine	we, us, our, ours, ourselves
2nd	you, your, yours, yourself	you, your, yours, yourselves
3rd	he, she, it, him, her, his, hers, its	they, them, their, theirs, themselves

*Note: If more than one person is discussed in the third person in a passage (such as Zechariah, John, Mary...in Luke 1), use a different color for each person.

WHERE is mentioned in the text (what places or locations)?

Where	any place or location identified in the text
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WHEN do the events take place (references to duration or time)?

When	after, before, during, forever, meanwhile, now, since, until, when, while
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HOW is the text connected and WHY are things discussed in the text? Look for connecting and transition words.

Conjunctions, Adverbs and Conjunctive Adverbs	Cause/Effect – accordingly, as a result, because, for, hence, so, then, therefore, thus Compare – like/as, likewise, similarly Conditional – if/then, unless Connect – and, or Contrast – although, but, except, however, instead, rather than, though, yet Emphasize – certainly, definitely, indeed, of course Illustration – for example, for instance Purpose – because of, consequently, for this reason, so that, that Sequence – finally, furthermore, in addition, moreover, next Summary/Conclusion – finally, therefore, thus
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Prepositions	above, against, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beside, between, both/and, by, either/or, for, from, in, on, out of, over, through, to, under, with, without
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WHAT themes or topics are identified in the text?

Look for and mark with a unique (1) color or (2) symbol any repeated words (synonyms, antonyms), phrases or concepts. Unique symbols could include an underline, double underline, zigzag underline, circle, square/rectangle, brackets [], greater than/less than brackets < >, braces { }, parenthesis (), etc. (also consider using different color pens for more options). Then ask questions and analyze what is learned about each of the repeated words, phrases or concepts.

An example of a broad theme throughout Scripture is distinguishing between the Kingdom of God (KOG) and the Kingdom of the World (KOW).

Kingdom of God	Kingdom of the World
(1) What characteristics define those in the KOG? Who are they?	(1) What characteristics define those in the KOW? Who are they?
(2) What things/actions do they do?	(2) What things/actions do they do?
(3) What are the results/consequences of who they are and what they do?	(3) What are the results/consequences of who they are and what they do?

List of items identified in the text.

When a list of anything is presented in the text, identify the list with some sort of notation such as (1), (2), (3), (4); (I), (II), (III), (IV); (A), (B), (C), (D); or (a), (b), (c), (d).

Then ask questions of the text such as what items are included (or excluded) from the list or why the items are presented in the specific order within the text. Specifically, try to identify if the list of items is in some sort of progression or logical order, such as (1) from general principal to specific examples or (2) specific examples to general principal.

Final Notes

To start, it may be helpful to begin with only the (1) orange (with blue and red underline) and (2) purple colors above. This will help identify (1) what information is provided about God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) within the text and (2) visually see the outline/structure/flow of the text and how different parts of the text are connected.

Finally, select coloring and writing utensils that do not soak through the page - regular crayons work well for coloring and thinline/microline pens work well for symbols.

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