Psalm 42 – 43
New American Standard Version

Observation (What does it say?):
What do you notice in this passage?
Mark your observations (underline, circle, etc.)
- Repeated words or phrases?
- Parallel ideas?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Contrasts? Mark positive and negative statements.
- Other observations?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):
After observing the passage:
- Is there any flow or rhythm or progress of the positive and negative statements?
- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):
- Which of the psalmist’s laments do you most identify with? Why?
- Which of the psalmist’s hopeful statements do you most identify with? Why?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?
**Observation**
(What does it say?)
What facts do you observe about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that…”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore…”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

**Interpretation**
(What does it mean?)
What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you interpret the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**
(What does it mean for me?)
What is the impact on your life?
What application does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

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*Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.*
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)