

Read. Notice. Understand. Respond.

A reusable Bible study worksheet. Start with one complete passage; see page 2 for an example.

Passage: _____ Date: _____

Translation: _____ Read before and after: _____

1 Observe what the passage says

Who is speaking or acting? What changes? Note two details and their verse numbers.

2 Understand the passage in context

What kind of writing is this? How does the surrounding passage help? Separate what the text says from what you infer.

3 Respond with one practical step

What response follows from the meaning? Avoid turning a narrative into a promise it does not make.

4 Pray and keep one question

Write a short prayer and one question to discuss with a trusted Christian or revisit tomorrow.

Worked example: Mark 4:35-41

Try the passage yourself before reading these sample notes. This is an interpretation, not an answer key for every reader.

Read the whole scene

Read Mark 4:35-41, then look back at 4:1-34. Mark moves from Jesus teaching beside the sea to an evening boat crossing. This is a narrated event, not a command that readers must repeat.

Observe - record evidence first

Jesus proposes the crossing (v.35). A storm threatens the boat while he sleeps (vv.37-38). The disciples question whether he cares (v.38). He stills the storm and asks about their fear and faith (vv.39-40). Their final question concerns his identity (v.41).

Understand - connect details to the main point

The passage presents Jesus as having authority over the wind and sea while his disciples struggle to trust him. Notice that the narrative ends with their question about who he is, not instructions for controlling the weather. His presence did not prevent the storm from arising.

Distinguish meaning from overclaim

A reasonable application is to bring fear honestly to Jesus and reflect on his authority. The story does not promise that every crisis will end immediately, that faithful people never feel fear, or that a reader can command a particular outcome.

Respond - choose a specific action

Today I will name one fear in prayer, then take an appropriate practical step rather than pretending I am not afraid. I can ask a trusted person for support. This personal response is an application of the passage, not a quotation from it.

Pray - then ask a question

Jesus, help me bring my fear to you honestly and learn to trust you. Give me wisdom for the next step and humility to seek help. Amen.

Question to explore: Why are the disciples still afraid after the sea becomes calm?

Source: Mark 4:1-41, World English Bible (public domain).

ebible.org/engwebp/MRK04.htm

Sample notes: Scripture Mate, AI-assisted. No individual theological review claimed.

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