



BibleTalk

AT THOMAS ROAD

| Bible Study
| Methods

Introduction

Bible Study Methods:

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

Why Study The Bible?

“There are only two ways to influence human behavior: you can manipulate it or you can inspire it.” – Simon Sinek, from “Start With Why”

Ezra 7:9b-10 *“...for the good hand of his God was on him [Ezra]. For Ezra had set his heart _____ the Law of the Lord, and _____ and _____ his statutes and rules in Israel.”*

Head -> Heart -> Hands

I. Head: “to study” (Theological)

1. _____:
The Bible is how God has revealed himself
(cf. Psalm 19, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Genesis 3)
2. _____:
It is how we both avoid and combat false teaching
(cf. Genesis 3, Ephesians 4, I Peter 3:15-16)

II. Heart: “to do” (Personal)

1. The way to know _____
(cf. Psalm 37:4, Psalm 40:8, Romans 12:1-2)
2. The source of _____ (cf. Psalm 1, 2 Timothy 3:15)

Observation:

How to read and see the scripture

Introduction

I. David and God's Word (Psalm 119)

1. "Your word I have _____ in my heart" (v. 11)
2. "I have _____ in the way of Your testimonies" (v. 14)
3. "Your testimonies ... are _____" (v. 24)
4. "I shall _____ in Your commandments, which I love" (v. 47)
5. "O how I _____ Your law!" (v. 97)
6. "How _____ are Your words to my taste! Yes,
_____ to my mouth!" (v. 103)
7. "Your testimonies are _____" (v. 129)
8. "_____ at Your word, as one who finds great spoil" (v. 162)
9. "Your law is _____" (v. 174).

II. The _____

"Make your end goal not merely to read the Bible but to know and understand it—to love and treasure it as God's holy, sufficient, transforming Word." – **Nate Pickowicz in "How to Eat Your Bible"**

III. The _____

"If you want to learn to love cars, you're going to have to learn a slew of terms and names, as well as an entire skillset for taking apart and putting together a complex machine. If you want to learn beekeeping, you'll have to learn about bee anatomy and how to maintain hives, as well as the entire science behind the discipline. No matter how you slice it, learning to love something of value is hard work." – **Nate Pickowicz in "How to Eat Your Bible"**

IV. The _____

"I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God." – **George Mueller**

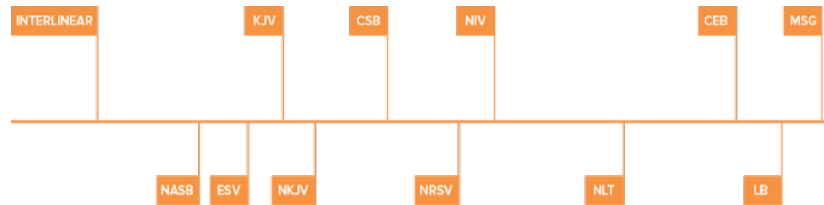
Learning To Read Scripture:

I. Read _____ (cf. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 119:97)

Learn to _____ on one or two verses of Scripture. Use your time at the beginning of the day, at coffee break, during your lunch hour, riding around campus, before you go to sleep at night to reflect on that verse or verses.

II. Read _____

1. Be patient with _____ - Reading the Scripture can be frustrating if you are continually trying to read too much text. Read for meaning and not mileage.
2. Be patient with _____ - Read a translation that you understand. Scripture reading can become a frustrating endeavor if you are reading from a translation you find difficult or do not enjoy.



Formal-----Functional-----Paraphrase

III. Read _____ - Read the Bible over and over again and you will see things that you have never seen before.

1. Read a Different Translation
2. Listen to the Bible being read
3. Read the Bible out loud

IV. Read _____

1. _____ ?

- Identify the people in the text
- Identify the writer
- Identify the recipients
- Identify the characters involved in the action(s) of the passage
- Identify the characters indirectly involved in the action(s) of the passage
- Identify any special people addressed in the passage

2. _____ ?

- What is happening?
- Is the passage about key events or key ideas?
- What is the key subject, and what are the key words?
- What is that passage: A miracle? A poem? A story? A parable? A letter? A history? A command?
- What is the tone of the passage; does it reflect joy, sorrow, victory, defeat?
- What took place before or after the events described in this passage that might help you to understand it?

3. _____ ? Identify:

- Places mentioned
- Buildings
- Cities
- Nations
- Landmarks

4. _____ ? Identify time factors:

- Date of author's writing
- Duration of the action or event
- At what point in the life of Israel?
- At what point in the life of the church?
- Past, present, or future time reference
- Time references (Month, Festival, day, etc.)

5. _____? Ask “why” questions that can be answered in the text or by further reading and study.

- Why did he say this?
- Why did this happen?
- Why are they here?
- Why are we talking about this?
- Why does he need to say this?
- Why does he say it like this?
- Why are we in this situation?

6. _____?

- How did he do it?
- How did this come about?
- How did he say it?
- How did he respond to the people?
- How is the author developing his material?
- Is there a logical development of thought that you can follow?

V. Read _____

1. _____ – Repetition is one of the most frequently used means of emphasis in the Bible. Watch for repeated:

- terms & phrases
- characters
- incidents & circumstances
- patterns

2. _____ – Look for things that have some connection, some interaction with each other. Watch for:

- a movement from general to specific
- questions & answers
- cause & effect

3. _____ – Important ideas, events, people, and other Scriptural material are often emphasized using these tools:

- amount of space
- stated purpose
- order
- movement (from lesser to greater & vice versa)

4. _____

- Look for two or more things that are being itemized.
- Is there an order to this itemization?

VI. Read _____ - Reading the Bible telescopically means that you are reading the parts in light of the whole

1. How do your verses relate to the verses that immediately _____ them?

2. How do your verses relate to _____ they are in?

3. How do your verses relate to _____ as a whole?

Additional Notes

Observation Part 2:

Context

Introduction

1. In order to properly observe the text, we need to pay attention to _____.
2. The most important principle when it comes to understanding the text is that the _____ determines the _____.
3. By _____ the context of Scripture, we are saying that we would rather hear what God has to say than put words in his mouth.

3 Layers of Context

1. The Layer of the _____
2. The Layer of the _____
3. The Layer of the _____

Literary Genre

1. _____ is a French word that means “form” or “kind”
“In a similar way, there are different ‘game’ rules involved in the interpretation of the different kinds of biblical literature. The author has ‘played the game,’ that is, has sought to convey his meaning, under the rules covering the particular literary form he has use. Unless we know those rules, we will almost certainly misinterpret his meaning.” – Robert Stein
2. The _____:
We must let the author’s choice of genre determine the rules we use to understand his words. To disregard genre is to violate our covenant with the authors: human and divine.

3. Genres of the Bible

A. _____:

- Narrative
- Law
- Poetry
- Wisdom
- Prophecy

B. _____:

- Gospel
- History
- Epistle
- Apocalyptic

Historical and cultural context

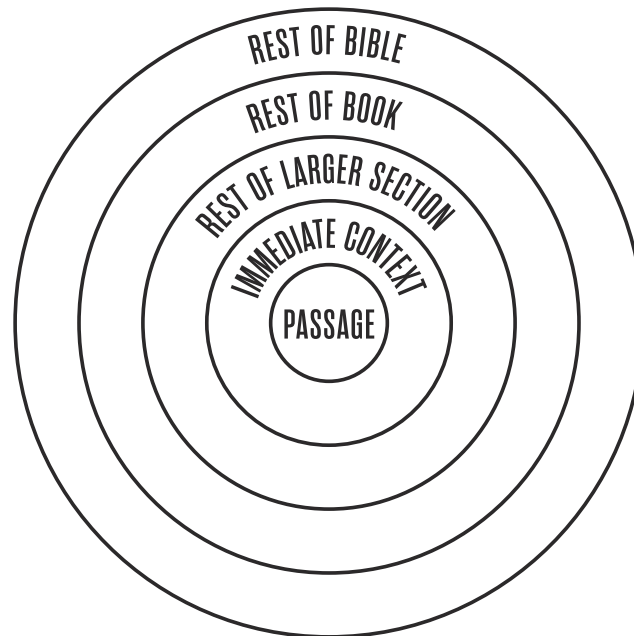
“God did not say, ‘Because I’m God I will speak directly to everybody in all times and all cultures.’” – Craig Keener

“The truth of the matter is that each passage of Scripture was ‘God’s Word to other people before it became God’s Word to us.’” – Klein, Blomberg and Hubbard

1. God spoke through the human writers of Scripture to address real-life needs of a particular _____ at a particular _____ in a particular _____.
2. For our interpretation of any biblical text to be valid, it must be consistent with _____ context of that text.
3. Factors to consider:
 - Writer
 - Audience
 - Social
 - Geographical
 - Political
 - Economic
 - Religious

The layer of the text itself

1. _____ – the text that surrounds the passage you are studying. This includes the words, sentences, paragraphs, and discourses that come before and after your passage.
2. Next to grammar, studying the context is the best way to determine what is _____ in any particular sentence, verse, etc.
3. “_____” – In order to find the details, we must start with a greater surface area and work our way in.



Additional Notes

Interpretation:

Introduction

If observation is “_____?” then

interpretation is “_____?”

What do we bring to the text?

1. When we read the Bible, we are not _____. We bring a lot of _____ notions and influences with us to the text when we read.
2. _____ - The preconceived notions and understandings we bring to the text, which have been formulated, both consciously and unconsciously.
3. Factors _____ to preunderstanding:
 - Sunday School, Church, Bible Studies
 - Hymns and other music
 - TV and movies
 - Social Media
 - Art/culture
 - Nonbiblical Literature
4. What is the _____? - Avoid interpretational reflex by
 - Filling in the gaps in the biblical text with explanations from our preunderstanding.
 - Limiting the possibilities of a text even before we grapple with the intended meaning

Steps for Interpretation and Key Questions:

1. What did it mean to the _____?
 - Read the text carefully and make observations
 - Study the historical and literary context
 - Synthesize the meaning of the passage for the biblical audience

Example – Joshua 1:8:

- ◇ “after the death of Moses” - time of transition
- ◇ Moses & Joshua – divinely sanctioned leaders
- ◇ “The Lord said to Joshua” - divine speech
- ◇ Jordan River, Promised Land – Geographic Location
- ◇ Series of Exhortations (verses 6-8)
- ◇ Presence (verses 5 and 9)
- ◇ Strength and Courage (verses 6, 7 and 9)
- ◇ Law (verses 7 and 8)
- ◇ Success (verses 7 and 8)
- ◇ Message for the original audience: The Lord commanded Joshua, the new leader of Israel, to draw strength and courage from God’s empowering presence, to be obedient to the Law of Moses, and to meditate on the Law so that he would be successful in the conquest of the Promised Land.

2. What are _____ between then and now?

Example – Joshua 1:8

- ◇ We are not the leaders of the nation of Israel
- ◇ We are not setting out on the conquest of the Promised Land
- ◇ We are not under the Old Covenant of Law

3. What are _____ between then and now?

Example – Joshua 1:8

- ◇ God has a calling on the life of each person
- ◇ God is present with us
- ◇ God’s Word requires obedience

4. What is _____
for New Testament believers?

Example – Joshua 1:8

- ◇ Adjusting the message for _____
_____ to our _____: The Lord commanded Joshua, the new leader of Israel, to draw strength and courage from God’s empowering presence, to be obedient to the Law of Moses, and to meditate on the Law so that he would be successful in the conquest of the Promised Land.

Correlation:

How does it connect?

Introduction

When you understand how the Bible _____, you get a better understanding of the passage specifically and God's Word in general.

Connecting the Scriptures

1. How does my passage principle _____ with the rest of scripture?

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NRSV) *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

Passage Principle: God is holy, and He wants His people to be holy.

- **1 Peter 1:13-16** – ...for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- **Leviticus 19:2** – Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy."
- **Matthew 5:48** – Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:7** – For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness.

2. How does my passage principle fit with the person and Work of Jesus?

- A. Point _____ to Jesus (Phillip & the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8)
- B. Point _____ to Jesus (Passover lamb/Lamb of God)
- C. _____ Jesus (Bronze Serpent – Numbers 23 and John 3)

Application

How do I respond?

1. Four Questions of _____:
 - What should I do?
 - Who should I be?
 - To what cause should I devote my energy?
 - How can I discern truth from error?

2. What should I ____?
 - This is the question of _____. It addresses what I owe to God and others.
 - When answering this question ask, “What does the Bible teach me to do in this situation?”

3. Who should I ____?
 - This is the question of _____. Character is about the work of God in a heart to create a new nature within us.
 - When answering the question ask,
 - ◇ “How must I change if I am to be holy?”
 - ◇ “Who am I already, in Christ?”
 - ◇ “How can I become more like Him?”

4. To what _____ should I devote my energy?
 - This is the question of _____. These are the causes and aspirations that direct our choices as we use our energy and skill to pursue them.
 - When answering this question ask,
 - ◇ “How can I seek to change the world so that it conforms God’s plans?”
 - ◇ “What is the best means for achieving godly ends?”
 - ◇ “Where will I get a sense of direction?”

5. How can I distinguish _____?

- This is the question of _____. Discernment is the insight, understanding, and perception to see things from God's perspective and discriminate between a Biblical and unbiblical view of our world.
- When answering the question ask,
 - ◇ "How can I gain discernment?"
 - ◇ "How can I resist what is false in the mind-set and customs of this world?"
 - ◇ "How can I gain wisdom from God and the church?"

6. An example: Applying Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 5:33-37 (NRSV) *Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.*

A. What should I do?

- The question of _____
- A disciple's duty is to prove so faithful to his word that oath-taking is insignificant.

B. Who should I be?

- The question of _____
- We know we should keep our word. What prevents us from doing it? Why do we make promises we do not intend to keep? However, the truth-telling God is remaking his people into his image. This gives us the capacity for truth-telling ourselves.

C. To what cause should I devote my energy?

- The question of _____
- Our goal is to fashion a home, church, school, workplace, and society where "yes" means "yes" so that oaths and promises do not wither away.

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