

HABITS- Bible Study Part 3, How do We Study the Bible? 4/22/18

We are finishing a brief series looking at the HABIT of Bible Study. **Week one: Can we trust It?**, **Week 2, Why should we study it?** Both available online, podcast. This week our question is **"How do we study it?"**, and it's going to be highly tactile. So EVERYONE get out a pen and paper because we are all going to get some basic Bible study training. Now for some of you this will be a review, and you might need some more advanced training. So you might say, well this isn't for me. Ahhh, but disciples make disciples! I wonder, have you ever taught anyone else how to study the Bible? I'm going to give you a 30 minute survey and train you how to do that!

Have you ever **eaten microwave chili**? In college, there was a season when I virtually lived off of this stuff, it's something you eat when you don't have time, when on the run...and you are cheap. It's edible. But it's not delicious. Chili done right is meant to be cooked slow and low in a **crocpot**. The flavors come together over time as they stew and mix, layered on top of each other. It takes longer but the payoff is far greater.

Many Christians spiritually are living off of Hormel, microwavable chili. We look at our day, we only have 5 or 10 minutes before we get ready for work, and so we try to microwave our time in the Word. Hoping that in 5 minutes we get something great in a devotional or Scripture passage that will help us for the day. It's edible. But it's not delicious. God's word is more like a crocpot- it is meant to be slowly studied and pondered. When we study the Word like this, it begins to jump off the page and into our hearts, we get the big AHA! Moments...and it comes alive to transform our lives from the inside out. The psalmist says this...

Psalm 1:2-3a

but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season.

Let's not be microwave Christians, let's be crocpot Christians! What does that look like? **Inductive Bible Study** Method, time tested method that Christians have been using for centuries to study the Bible. You can use this Bible study method to read any book of the Bible. The method is built off of three simple questions:

What do I see? Observation

What does it mean? Interpretation

What should I do? Application

Illustration- I'd liken this process to a detective at a crime scene. Takeaway- More time spent in observation, the easier and more accurate the interpretation and clearer and compelling the application will become.

What do I see? Observation

Start firing Who, What, When, Where, Why Questions at Scripture.
 Who wrote this? Who is it written to? What's their situation? Where are they? When is this written? What's the tone? What seems to be the main subject? Why is the author writing? Why is it important?

Look for Meanings of Words

Illustration: TBH, today was cray. I thought Ethan was trolling me so I got Salty and started throwing shade in front of his BAE. We worked it out Hundo P and its all Gucci. Thanks for understanding. You're the #GOAT Grandma!

Translation: To Be Honest, today was crazy. I thought that Ethan was trying to purposely start an argument with me so I got upset and started criticizing him in front of his girlfriend. We worked out our differences completely and now our relationship is good again. Thanks for understanding. You're the greatest of all time Grandma!

Words have meaning.

Romans 3:24

and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

A tool- www.blueletterbible.org

Justified- To declare righteous

Redemption- being freed from slavery by the payment of a ransom

Look for Word Choice

"But how do we know when irrational exuberance has unduly escalated asset values, which then become subject to unexpected and prolonged contractions?" -Alan Greenspan

-Alan Greenspan- The Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said this before the stock market bubble burst in 2000.

-When Greenspan said this investors all over the whole were dissecting every word of this. They were asking what "irrational exuberance" meant and "unduly escalated", "unexpected and prolonged contractions" meant. They were asking how it would be different if he said "rational exuberance" instead of "irrational" or "legitimately" vs. "unduly".

The Point of Illustration: We should approach words that are used in Scripture with the same kind of examination.

Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Context

What does the following statement mean to you? "The door is open"
 -"Oh no! The door is open. Snow is blowing into the house!"

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:10-13

¹⁰ For this is what the Lord says: "When seventy years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm my promise concerning you to restore you to this place. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Repetition of words, phrases, ideas

Modifiers

Figures of Speech

Emotion and tone

What does it mean? Interpretation

Donald and Daisy Ill.

What is the Main Point? Not the chipmunk in the tree.

Interpretation works best through the interplay of zooming in (observation) and zooming back out to get the bigger picture. Remember our detective? The more observations the easier and more precise your interpretation.

1 Timothy 1:1-5

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, ²To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith. ⁵The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Chipmunk

Paul is against myths and genealogies.

1 Timothy 1:1-5, Main Point

Mentor Paul tells Pastor Timothy to speak truth in love by correcting false teaching that is distracting the church from God's work.

What should I do? Application

Stuck car:

While there is generally one main interpretation or point, there are multiple applications to our lives.

Common types of application:

A Prayer to Pray

An Example to Follow

A Truth To Believe

A Sin/Mistake To Avoid

A Command to Pursue

Areas of application:

Priorities, Relationships, Witness, Business, Values, Home life, Money, Actions

When you have done the hard detective work of observation, you have zoomed in and out of the text to see the main point and interpretation, the application is going to begin to jump off the page and into your heart.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

I want to appeal to you to, let's not make a steady diet of spiritual Hormel Microwavable chili. I want to appeal to you to be crockpot Christians not microwave Christians. And that you would find delight in the Word as you slowly seek God in this book he wrote for us!

That's great, Nate. But I don't have time! Cross out the word "have" and insert the word, "make". We all have time, the question is are you willing to restructure your life to create a habit that will transform your life? That's the question. To get up an hour earlier, cut out some TV and social media time, hire someone to cut your grass, close your laptop and get the project done another time...

Next Steps:

-Book, recommended book list, Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible- Kay Arthur, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth- Fee and Stuart.

-Bible Study Cheat Sheet

-Homework- Pray, Ephesians 1:1-14