

# WORKBOOK

*Howard G. Hendricks*

Living  
by

# The Book





## A word before you start. . .

You are about to embark on an adventure that will take you to territory uncharted for most Christians—the serious study of God’s Word. The journey starts with the basic skills of Bible study and will take you through the perils of interpretation to what should be the ultimate goal of every Christian—to be God’s man or woman who is *Living by The Book*.

Your guide for the trip is Dr. Howard G. Hendricks, Seminary professor, author, educator, creative communicator. This course is the culmination of forty years of teaching Bible Study Methods to three generations of students at Dallas Theological Seminary, and to thousands of lay men and women around the world.

Chuck Swindoll, pastor, author, radio Bible teacher and former student of Howard Hendricks says, “The teaching of Howie Hendricks on how to study the Bible is beyond great. It is outstanding . . . life changing. How do I know? During my days in seminary I drank in each word as I absorbed every session he taught, which changed my life. Not a week passes without my using some technique or principle I learned from this gifted man.”

Now the very practical and life changing methods developed by Dr. Hendricks have been videotaped and packaged to help you “get into” God’s Word for yourself.

These sessions were taped in a seminar format with a small group of people to allow for more interaction between student and teacher—and to encourage your participation as a viewer. We’ve designed this course workbook to draw you into the video presentations and challenge you to be one of God’s people who is *Living by The Book*.

Have a great journey.

## Meet your teacher . . .

Dr. Howard G. Hendricks is an internationally known Christian educator. He is the founder and former chairman of the Christian Education department of Dallas Theological Seminary. He now serves as Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Center for Christian Leadership at Dallas Seminary. His best loved course among students is Bible Study Methods which serves as the foundation of this video series.

A graduate of Wheaton College and Dallas Seminary, Dr. Hendricks has served in a variety of roles as a pastor and professor. He has ministered in more than 70 countries around the world. He is a well-known author having written a number of books including *Confrontation, Conflict and Crisis; Say It with Love; Heaven Help the Home; Families Go Better with Love; Marriage and the Family; Church Management Manual; Taking a Stand; and Teaching to Change Lives*.

Howard and Jeanne Hendricks are the parents of four grown children and currently reside in Dallas, Texas.

## A word from Ken . . .

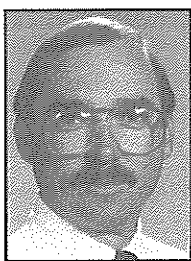
By God's grace, it was less than two years after I had trusted Christ as my Savior that He led me into the wonderful discovery of personal Bible study. Through a class at Arrowhead Springs in 1972, I learned the joys and techniques of Bible study methods from an excellent teacher named Dick Purnell.

A number of years later, my commitment to personal Bible study was renewed and refreshed by Dr. Howard Hendricks when I took his popular (and required) class in Bible study methods at Dallas Seminary. Over the course of one semester Dr. Hendricks provided us with a living model of the *process* of personal Bible study. But more than that, over the years we have had the privilege of observing in him the *product* of personal Bible study as well—a life of consistency, maturity, and godliness.

That quality of life, of course, is the goal of everyone who knows Jesus Christ and longs to walk with Him. Fortunately, it is not reserved only for pastors, professors, and seminary students. Because God has chosen to give us His Word on our level, every believer can carefully study what God says and consistently grow toward maturity. Personal Bible study not only is the *ideal* way to grow, it is the *only* way to grow.

That is why Dr. Hendricks' video series, *Living By The Book*, is so valuable, and why I consider it a privilege to offer this study guide as a companion to his excellent material. It is my prayer that these materials will spark in each student's heart an unquenchable zeal for personal study of the eternal Word of God.

—Ken Durham



Ken Durham is Director of Communications for LeTourneau Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and maintains working relationships with several Christian publishers as a writer and editor. He holds master's degrees in theology and Christian education from Dallas Seminary.

# CONTENTS

## **INTRODUCTION .....6**

## **OBSERVATION**

Session One .....	10
Session Two .....	19
Session Three .....	28
Session Four .....	36
Session Five .....	43
Session Six .....	52
Session Seven .....	61
Session Eight .....	69
Session Nine .....	77

## **INTERPRETATION**

Session One .....	88
Session Two .....	95
Session Three .....	103
Session Four .....	112
Session Five .....	120

## **APPLICATION**

Session One .....	130
Session Two .....	138
Session Three .....	146
Session Four .....	154
Session Five .....	161

## Introduction

### *How To Use This Study Guide*

This study guide has been written and designed expressly for use with Dr. Howard Hendricks video series, *Living By The Book*. As might be assumed about a course dealing with Bible study methods, its purpose—as well as that of the study guide—is not simply to make the participant *aware* of his or her need for personal Bible study, but to move the participant into *active* Bible study.

Therefore this study guide might appear to be more task-oriented, more “academic,” and even more challenging than study guides dealing with other topics. This is intentional, not for the purpose of *discouraging* participants from personal Bible study, but for *encouraging* them to acquire the tools and skills they need in order to dig deep and find spiritual treasures in God’s Word.

Outlined below is a brief explanation of the structure and content of each lesson:

### **Preparing for the Book**

#### ***STEP ONE: Open Mind***

This is a challenge to *prepare mentally*, encouraged through quotes, excerpts, and appropriate Bible verses.

#### ***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

This is a challenge to *prepare spiritually*, to open one’s heart and life to the scrutiny of God’s Word. As will be seen in the quotes and verses quoted here, the Bible cannot be one’s *textbook* without becoming one’s *lifebook*.

#### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

This is a challenge to *prepare logistically* to study God’s Word. Throughout the Bible we are given glimpses of people who knew the Scriptures as a result of careful, disciplined, persistent study — and reaped the rewards of that study. With that in view, this section of each lesson

will offer hints, helps, and how-tos for the person who wants the same quality of depth in his or her own study of the Scriptures.

NOTES

## Looking to the Book

[THE CURRENT VIDEO LESSON WILL BE  
STARTED HERE]

In this section Dr. Hendrick's video lecture will be outlined, with some sections left for participants to fill in. An appropriate amount of space will be provided for filling in notes, thoughts, and illustrations, and the flow of each message will be clear enough for future reference.

[THE CURRENT VIDEO LESSON WILL END HERE]

## Working in the Book

This is where the benefit of *Living by The Book* stands or falls! Without participants faithfully moving through each "Working in the Book" section, this video series will become just another vague memory.

On the other hand, if participants will be diligent to complete each series of assignments as best they can based on Dr. Hendrick's lessons, they will find — as countless others have — that the pages of Scripture will open up to them and the Bible will effect its life-changing work in their lives.

One final note: Three levels of assignments are provided for several reasons:

- (1) Some will find themselves going through this series more than once, in which case successive levels of assignments can be completed with each viewing.
- (2) Some will be familiar with some of the methods discussed in this series and will want to be challenged by more "in-depth" assignments.
- (3) Some will simply not want to stop once they have begun to effectively study the Word of God.

The three levels are as follows:

***LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

This level will ask participants to interact with the lesson material in much the same way that the live audience interacted with Dr. Hendricks. There may also be questions dealing with biblical content, methods, or other discovery skills.

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

In addition to revisiting some aspects of the lesson content, this section will challenge the student to make his or her own discoveries in the Bible. It will build participants' confidence in Bible study, and will also provide a time of personal interaction with the Word of God.

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

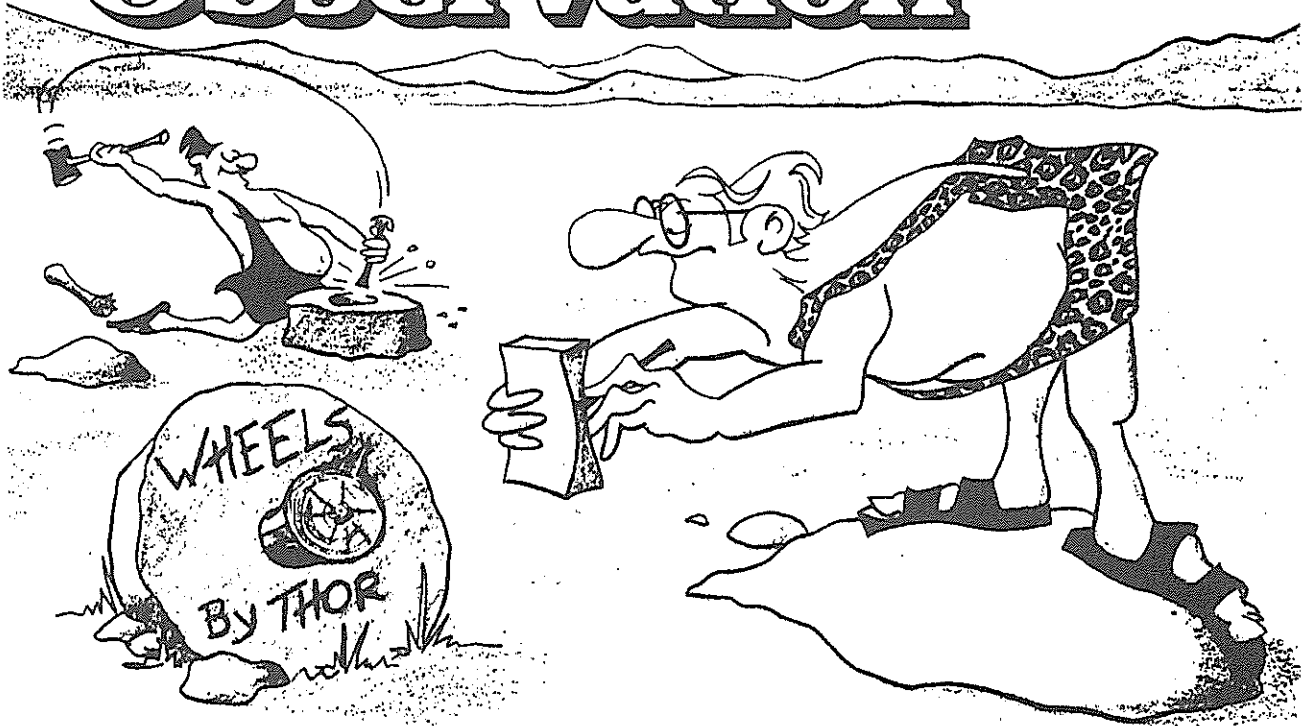
This section will provide more opportunities, more challenging passages of Scripture, more application of Bible study skills for participants who are ready and willing to move out on their own. By the time students have progressed this far, it is likely they can continue past this point on their own.

**Conclusion:**

If you, in your interaction with this study guide, find ways that it can be made more effective or more helpful in future editions, please feel free to write to the address noted on page 2. May God bless you in your diligent study of His Word!



# Observation



*What Do I See?*

Session One  
*A Tale of Two Questions*

**Preparing for the Book**

***STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- Did you know that the Bible is not simply one Book? It is 66 books in one, composed and compiled by more than 40 human authors over a period of more than 1600 years. Its human writers included kings, fishermen, diplomats, prophets, shepherds, lawyers, doctors, military men, and historians. Moreover, it addresses hundreds of topics, including life, death, God, marriage, worship, truth, and eternity. And yet it is in perfect harmony from cover to cover, entirely consistent within itself, and proves its supernatural origins through its supernatural unity.

- In spite of being the most persecuted book in history, it is also the most widely published and best-selling volume of all time.

- “The family Bible is more often used to adorn coffee tables or press flowers than it is to feed souls and discipline lives.”

—Charles Colson

***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word. . . . Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”

—Psalm 119:9, 11

- In John 17:17, Jesus prayed to the Father concerning all His disciples, “Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.”

- “Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.”

—E. Paul Hovey

- “For the Word of God is living and active,” Hebrews 4:12 reminds us, “and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

- Before you begin this potentially life-changing study, ask God to open your understanding, to give you insight into His eternal Word, and to create in your heart a willingness to obey Him no matter what the cost.

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

If you are beginning this study as part of a group or class, then it may be that you do not feel you have to worry about an appropriate place to study God’s Word—it has already been provided for you. However, if you are setting out to study God’s Word faithfully on your own—as a way of life—be sure to set aside not only the time for personal Bible study, but a suitable place as well. Many people find that a regular time each morning is ideal for a “quiet time” with God. If mornings are not good for you, you may want to block out a portion of your lunch hour, or 30 minutes in the evening after everything at home has quieted down.

Regardless of *when* you meet with God in His Word, be faithful to your time and come expecting to learn from Him. Try to avoid interruptions and distractions, and keep in mind the suggestions we will be offering in the lessons ahead.

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION ONE]

### I. Introduction

- “The Bible will keep you from \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ will keep you from the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- It is a tragedy that many Christians today are \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God, but they are not \_\_\_\_\_ it for themselves.
- Being under the Word of God should be a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_, for getting into it for ourselves.

### II. There Are Two Basic Questions to Answer

#### A. Question One: “Why is it that people do not study the Bible?”

1. They do not put it on their \_\_\_\_\_ list.
2. They believe it is not \_\_\_\_\_ for today.
3. They do not know how to \_\_\_\_\_ to study it.
4. They do not think they can \_\_\_\_\_ it on their own.

#### B. Question Two: “Why do we need to study the Bible?”

Let’s consider three passages:

1. The first passage is 1 Peter 2:2.  
Based on this verse we can write three words in the margin of our Bibles.
  - a. The first word is \_\_\_\_\_.  
We should grab for the Word just like a baby grabs for a \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. The second word is \_\_\_\_\_. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God. We develop that kind of taste for the Bible by spending \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

*Three types of Christians:*

*The castor oil type—"It's bitter, but it's good for what ails you."*

*The shredded wheat type—"It's dry but nourishing."*

*The strawberries and cream type—They can't get enough of it!*

- c. The third word is \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible tells us that the goal of Bible study is that we might \_\_\_\_\_.

The word is "grow", not "know." You can't grow without \_\_\_\_\_, but you can know and not \_\_\_\_\_.

***"The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity, but to make you conform to Christ's image. Not to make you a smarter sinner, but to make you like the Savior. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts, but to transform your life."***

2. The second passage is Hebrews 5:11-14.

- a. According to the writer of Hebrews, the problem with believers and Bible study is *not* the difficulty of the revelation, it is the density of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The mature are those who by constant use have trained themselves to take the Word of God and use it in \_\_\_\_\_ their lives to distinguish good and evil.
- c. The highest mark of spiritual maturity is not how much you \_\_\_\_\_, it is how much you \_\_\_\_\_.

- d. The opposite of ignorance in the spiritual realm is not knowledge, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

***"The Bible is the divine means of developing spiritual maturity."***

3. The third passage is **2 Timothy 3:16-17**.

This passage tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture is profitable for four things.

- a. It is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_.  
It will structure your thinking, because what we believe determines how we \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. It is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_. It will tell us when we are out of bounds.
- c. It is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_. It will not only reveal our problems, it will also solve them.
- d. It is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ in righteous living.

The end result of the effects of God's Word is that we will be \_\_\_\_\_ for every good work.

***"If you didn't know any more about your business or profession than you know about Christianity after the same number of years, what would happen?"***

### III. Summary

Why do we need to study God's Word? We have seen three basic reasons.

- A. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. It is essential to \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. It is essential for \_\_\_\_\_.

The real question confronting us now is, "How can we afford to stay out of it?"

NOTES

[END OF VIDEO SESSION ONE]

## **Working in the Book**

### ***LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

1. Which of the reasons for not studying God's Word most closely fits your experience?

Which of the reasons for studying the Bible best answers this?

2. According to Psalm 119:9, 11, what effect will God's Word have on our lives if we are studying it?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:2. Why do you think Peter used this particular illustration of spiritual growth?
4. How would you answer the question, "Are you growing up, or growing old?"

Why?

5. Based on Hebrews 5:11-14, evaluate the spiritual condition of the readers of that letter by filling in the chart below:

<i>What should have been true</i>	<i>What was true</i>

6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Can you give a concrete example of each of these traits of God's Word, based on your own experience? What does that reveal about its value in your life?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

- What do we learn about the Word of God from each of the following passages?
  - Psalm 119:105
  - Romans 12:1-2
  - Jeremiah 15:16
  - 2 Timothy 2:15



2. Take the time to “search the Scriptures” and come up with a verse to answer each of the four reasons why people do not study the Bible.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
3. How do you think 1 Peter 2:2 relates to:  
  
—Matthew 5:6  
  
—1 John 2:4-6  
  
—Proverbs 1:7a
4. Following the statement of Hebrews 5:11-14, what is the call of Hebrews 6:1a? How would you phrase this in your own words? How would you accomplish it?
5. The phrase “inspired by God” in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 literally translates “God-breathed.” What do you think this reveals about the Word of God?

**LEVEL THREE: *Building beyond the foundation***

1. What "cycle" or ongoing progression can you find in Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-10? Diagram it if possible.
2. Besides "Thy word," find at least seven other names by which the psalmist calls the Word of God in Psalm 119. What differences do you think these names imply? What makes them similar?
3. What will be one effect of adversity in our lives, according to Psalm 119:71? What does this presume? What examples of this can you observe in the life of David (give specific Scripture references)?
4. Briefly list the effects you will experience if the Word of Christ richly dwells within you, according to Colossians 3:16-17.

## Session Two

### *The Product and the Process*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “I believe the promises of God enough to venture an eternity on them.”

*G. Campbell Morgan*

- History tells us that when Crowfoot, the chief of the Blackfoot nation in southern Alberta, gave the Canadian Pacific Railway permission to lay track from Medicine Hat to Calgary, he was given in exchange a lifetime railroad pass. Reportedly, Crowfoot put the pass in a leather pouch and wore it around his neck for the rest of his life—but he never once availed himself of the rights and privileges it spelled out. What a tragedy it is when Christians do the same thing with the Word of God, using it as a decorative badge of Christianity, but never availing themselves of the wealth of access to God’s thoughts it affords.

- While it is true that we must approach the Word of God with an open mind, we also must recognize that God’s truth provides absolute boundaries for that openness. As G. K. Chesterton has said, “Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.”

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “Thy words were found and I ate them, and thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of Hosts.”

—*Jeremiah 15:16*

- How have the great men of church history approached the Scriptures? History reports that:

**Tertullian** devoted his days and nights to Bible reading, so much so that he even memorized much of its punctuation.

**Theodosius the Younger** could repeat any part of Scripture exactly.

**Origen** never went to meals nor to sleep without having some portion of the Scriptures read.

**Beza** could repeat all of Paul's letters *in Greek* at age 80.

**Cramer** could repeat the entire New Testament from memory.

**Ridley** memorized all the New Testament during his walks at Cambridge.

- Before this lesson presents to you an overview of the process of Bible study, ask God to begin to build into your heart a genuine hunger for His Word and a relentless diligence in learning to study it carefully and accurately.

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

If you want your time of Bible study to be effective, every time you approach the Word of God, come with:

**Pencil or Pen**—Be prepared to write down what God teaches you.

**Paper**—Write down your thoughts and findings somewhere that provides you easy access and a continual reminder, such as a journal, a file folder, a notebook, or even the margin of your Bible.

**Purpose**—Always go to God's Word expecting Him to teach you and to change your life.

**Prayer**—Never begin to study God's Word without first talking to the Author, asking Him to open your heart and mind, and submitting yourself to Him as your great Teacher.

## Looking to the Book

NOTES

### [BEGIN VIDEO SESSION TWO]

In this session we want to do two things. **First** we are going to define what Bible Study involves; and **second** we are going to define our process of Bible study.

#### I. Let's define what Bible study involves.

---

*"A problem well defined is half solved."*

*—Charles Kettering*

---

We are going to define Bible study with \_\_\_\_\_  
progressive statements:

##### A. Bible study is **methodicalness**.

It involves taking certain \_\_\_\_\_ in a  
certain \_\_\_\_\_ to guarantee a certain  
\_\_\_\_\_.

It involves both the **product** and the  
\_\_\_\_\_.

##### 1. The **product** is:

###### a. Personal **study** of the Scriptures

###### b. Study that produces life \_\_\_\_\_

##### 2. The **process** involves a \_\_\_\_\_-step approach

###### a. The **first** step is \_\_\_\_\_. This is where we answer the question, "What do I see?"

###### b. The **second** step is \_\_\_\_\_. This is where we answer the question, "What does it mean?"

###### c. The **third** step is \_\_\_\_\_. This is where we answer the question, "How does it work?"

***“The Bible is relevant because it is revealed. It is always a return to reality.”***

**B. Bible study is methodicalness with a view to becoming receptive and reproductive.**

• Before we can ever make an impact on our generation, the Scripture has to make an impact on \_\_\_\_\_.

• There are two aspects to effective living:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ from the world.

**C. Bible study is methodicalness with a view to becoming receptive and reproductive by means of first-hand acquaintance with the Word.**

There are **four reasons** why firsthand discovery of the Scriptures is essential:

1. It will enable you to \_\_\_\_\_ for yourself.  
The Bible was not given as a *riddle*; it was given as a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It will prepare you to evaluate the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.
3. It will give you the joy of personal \_\_\_\_\_.
4. It will enable you to fall in love with the \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Let's look more closely at the process.**

**A. Step One: Observation — “What do I see?”**

There are basically four things to look for:

1. **Terms** — Terms are more than mere \_\_\_\_\_. Terms have specific *meaning* based on their *context*.
2. **Structure** — There are two basic kinds of structure.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ structure lets us know important information like subject, object, and main verbs.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ structure reveals clues through recognition of things like questions and answers; cause and effect; and so on.
3. **Literary form** — This tells us whether we are looking at poetry, narrative, history, or prophecy.
4. **Atmosphere** — This reveals feeling, mood, tone, environment — what it was like to be in the \_\_\_\_\_'s shoes.

#### B. Step Two: Interpretation —

*"What does it \_\_\_\_\_?"*

Three things will help us discover the \_\_\_\_\_ of a passage.

1. Bombard the text with \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible is never embarrassed to be asked questions.
2. Look for the \_\_\_\_\_. These most often will come out of our observation process.
3. Integrate the parts and put them together. Put all the details together into a meaningful whole.

*"The more time you spend in observation, the less time you will spend in interpretation, and the more accurate will be your results."*

### C. Step Three: Application — “*How does it \_\_\_\_\_?*”

There are two things to look for in this process:

1. How does it work for \_\_\_\_\_?
2. How does it work for \_\_\_\_\_?

This is the overview of where we are going. Don't miss the exciting journey!

[END OF VIDEO SESSION TWO]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. Why do you think Bible study should “involve certain steps in a certain order to guarantee a certain result”? Do you think this would *hinder* or *help* someone know what God wants them to know?
2. What are the three steps in the process of Bible study and the questions each is designed to answer?
3. What are the two aspects of effective living, according to this lesson? These sound contradictory; how do you reconcile them? Upon what basis are we to choose one option or the other in any situation?



4. Briefly review the four reasons why first-hand discovery of the Scriptures is essential. Which of these do you think is most needed in your life?

5. Briefly list some of the things we are to look for in the "Observation" step of Bible study.

6. What are the two aspects of application? Do you think the order here is important? Why or why not?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. What does Acts 17:11 reveal about the "methodicalness" of the Berean believers?

2. What do the following passages indicate the outcome of Bible study will be?

—1 John 5:3-4

—Romans 12:2

—Colossians 3:16-17

3. What heart preparation is necessary for effective Bible study, according to 1 Peter 2:1-2?
4. List at least seven benefits of gaining God's counsel from the Word, as found in Proverbs 3:13-26 (list more if possible).
5. What do you learn about the importance of individual terms in Scripture from Matthew 5:18 and Matthew 24:35?
6. In regard to the step of "Application," what do we learn from Jeremiah 15:16?

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

1. Write your own definition for each of the three steps of Bible study.

2. What do you think would be the dangers of:

—Interpretation without observation?

—Application without interpretation?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3. What three types of people are described here, and what will be the relationship of each to the Word of God? What does this reveal about personal prerequisites for understanding the Bible?

4. What literary form (narrative, poetry, history, wisdom, prophecy) would you *generally* expect to find in:

- Psalms
- Luke
- Joshua
- Proverbs
- Acts
- Revelation

5. How would you answer someone who says that 2 Peter 1:20-21 teaches that we cannot understand or interpret the Bible for ourselves? *Support your answer with Scripture.*

## Session Three

### *Learning How To Read*

#### **Preparing for the Book**

##### ***STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- Billy Graham was once asked in an interview, "If you had to live your life over again, what would you do differently?" Graham replied, "One of my great regrets is that I have not studied enough. I wish I had studied more and preached less. People have pressured me into speaking to groups when I should have been studying and preparing."

- "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established."

—*Proverbs 24:3*

- It has been said that the Bible is so deep that theologians cannot touch the bottom, yet so shallow that babes cannot drown.

##### ***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- "But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." ' "

—*Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3*

- "Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 'I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted. "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.' "

*Job 42:1-3*

- It has been said that God has given each of us six openings for taking in information, and only one for giving it out. And that alone should tell us something!

- "Cease striving and know that I am God."

*Psalms 46:10*

- Before we begin this lesson, let's recognize our need to be quiet, to calm down, to listen, to hear what God has to say rather than always being so quick to speak our minds. Ask God to give you a pliable will and an attentive ear as you go to His Word in study.

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

One common question asked by believers who are just beginning to study the Bible on their own is, "What books can I buy that will help me in my study?" Too often the first books we buy are commentaries—in which others tell us the results of their study—rather than tools that will help us dig deep on our own. Throughout this workbook suggestions will be made under the heading, "Tools of the Trade"; but for now, here are three suggestions:

—A common, everyday *dictionary*. It is amazing how much more we can learn when we understand what words mean!

—A good *Bible handbook*, such as *Eerdman's Bible Handbook*. A Bible handbook presents basic information about each book (in the same order as the biblical books), as well as providing interesting facts and information about history, culture, customs, etc.

—An exhaustive *concordance*, such as *Strong's* or *Young's*. Don't let the size of one of these scare you! Once you learn how to use it, not only can it help you find those verses "on the tip of your tongue," it can also help you trace certain words, people, and places throughout the Bible.

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION THREE]

### Introduction

- The first step in the process of Bible study methods is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The only difference between any two people is how much they \_\_\_\_\_ in the same place. The ability to \_\_\_\_\_ is a developed process.
- There are two basic reasons why we don't get more from our study of Scripture:
  - (1) We don't know how to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) We don't know what to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Eleven different times Jesus asked His listeners, "Have you never *read*? Of course they had—they just didn't understand what they read!"

In this lesson we are going to examine *three basic rules for reading the Bible*.

### I. Learn to read it better and faster.

There is a direct correlation between your *efficiency* in reading and your \_\_\_\_\_ in Bible study.

### Recommended Reading:

*How to Read a Book*, by Mortimer Adler.

II. Learn to read it as for the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES

*"The moment you come to a passage of Scripture  
and say, 'I know this one,' you're in deep trouble."*

A good suggestion for reading the Word of God freshly is  
to read it in several different \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Learn to read it as a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*"We need to come to the Word of God in love with  
the Person who wrote it."*

[END OF VIDEO SESSION THREE]

**Working in the Book*****LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

1. What was the psalmist's request in Psalm 119:18? What was he basically asking for?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. By what means can the wisdom and knowledge of Proverbs be obtained, according to Proverbs 22:17-21 (see v. 20)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He talked about those with "ears to hear" (see Matt. 11:15; 13:9, 43; Luke 14:35)? How does this relate to our need to "learn how to read" the Bible?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What was the main action that brought about great consequences in 2 Chronicles 34:14-15, 18-21?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In what way was Joshua supposed to read the Word of God, according to Joshua 1:8?  
What would be the result?



**LEVEL TWO: For those who want more**

NOTES

1. Set aside a time to read all of the Gospel of Mark in one sitting, without interruption.

After you have finished, answer the following:

- What obstacles did you have to overcome in order to read Mark straight through?
- What new insights into this gospel did you gain from reading it all at once?
- In what ways do you think this reading would help you study Mark in detail?

2. Read the following verses in at least three different versions. Does anything about each verse strike you differently as a result of seeing it in a new light?

—Hebrews 4:12-13

—Ephesians 5:15-19

—Matthew 6:19-24

3. List at least seven similarities between the way a person would read a love letter and the way we should approach God's Word.
4. Based on John 1:1-18, why does a parallel exist between our love for Jesus Christ and our love for the Word of God? How should this affect our desire to read His Word carefully?

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

1. Read Matthew 12:1-8. What was the answer to Jesus' question, "Have you not read...?" Then what was the religious leaders' problem? Be specific
2. In Psalm 119, find no fewer than ten verses which reflect the psalmist's attitude in *approaching*, rather than *applying*, God's Word. What effect do you think his approach had on his application?

3. Using an English dictionary, provide a brief definition for some of the words that are used in the Bible to describe the way the psalmist approached God's Word:

—Meditate

—Observe

—Cleave to

—Seek

—Long for

—Delight in

—Regard

—Consider

—Esteem

—Keep

—Love

4. Rephrase Psalm 119:18 into your own personal prayer concerning the way you approach God's Word.

## Session Four

### *Ten Rules for Reading—Part I*

#### **Preparing for the Book**

##### ***STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- How much time have we spent in various pursuits during our lives? For most of us, making a living consumes at least 40 hours, if not more, every week, or about 2000 hours annually. Each year we sleep nearly 3000 hours. Add another 550 hours per year for eating, and about 1500 hours per year for watching television.

How much time, then, does it take to read the Scriptures? At a very moderate rate, the entire Bible can be read in about 70 hours—52 hours for the Old Testament, and 18 hours for the New Testament. Even the longest portion of the Old Testament—the Psalms—takes only four and a half hours to read, while the Gospel of Luke would occupy less than three hours of our time.

- “I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once a year. My custom is to read four or five chapters every morning immediately after rising from my bed. It employs about an hour of my time, and seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day.”

—John Quincy Adams

- There are only two ways to study the Bible:
  1. Studying with your mind made up.
  2. Studying to let it make up your mind.

##### ***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me.  
It has feet, it runs after me.  
It has hands, it lays hold of me.”

—Attributed to Martin Luther

- “The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests hearts.”

*Proverbs 17:3*

- “The Bible dramatically deals with difficulties that discourage us, temptations that test us, and problems that plague us. It richly reveals the Christ who can change us, the Friend who can free us, and the Light who can lead us.”

—William A. Ward

- As you go to prayer in preparation for this study, thank God for choosing to give us His thoughts in a way our finite minds can understand, for equipping us with the Word of Truth, and for effecting its supernatural power in our lives.

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

As you have no doubt found out by now, Bible study tools can go far toward bridging the vast chasm between our time and Bible times, between our culture and ancient civilization, and between the distinctly Hebrew mindset and our predominantly Gentile perspective. One especially helpful tool is a one-volume Bible dictionary or Bible encyclopedia. Or, for those who want to make a more serious (and more expensive) investment, there are several excellent multi-volume Bible encyclopedias available at Christian bookstores.

Though the specific entries vary from volume to volume, these helpful books concisely answer questions that might otherwise go unanswered for the average Bible student—questions about places, people, the meanings of words, chronology, geography, and other matters of observation. Along with a dictionary and a Bible handbook, a good Bible dictionary and/or Bible encyclopedia can greatly enhance your time of personal Bible study.

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION FOUR]

In our previous lesson, we discovered our great need to learn how to read the Bible more effectively. In this session, therefore, we are going to get more specific in regard to good observation by examining the first four of **Ten Rules for Reading**.

### I. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

- The Bible does not yield its fruit to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our objective is to program our minds with the Word of God.

### II. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

Two things can help us greatly in this process:

#### A. Read all of one biblical book in one \_\_\_\_\_.

---

*Fact: Most biblical books are no longer than two or three newspaper columns.*

---

Each book was written as a unit and needs to be understood that way.

#### B. Read each book from the \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

- Most people \_\_\_\_\_ too soon, before they've hit "paydirt."

### IV. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

Here we need to look at **six questions** that will help you every time, if you only ask them:

#### A. Question One: " \_\_\_\_\_?"

Who are the people, and . . .

1. What is said about them?

2. What do they say?

#### B. Question Two: " \_\_\_\_\_?"

What is happening here? What is the argument? What is the author trying to communicate?

#### C. Question Three: " \_\_\_\_\_?"

This is the reason we need to have \_\_\_\_\_ handy when we are studying the Bible.

#### D. Question Four: " \_\_\_\_\_?"

Always determine what \_\_\_\_\_ it is! When did this take place? What day was it? What happened before, or after? When *will* these things take place?

NOTES

E. Question Five: “ \_\_\_\_\_?”

Why is this included? Why is it here? Why did it happen? Why did God allow it?

F. Question Six: “ \_\_\_\_\_?”

We can paraphrase this, “ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?” What difference does it make? It was written to change our lives . . . so what difference will it make?

Just these six questions alone can revolutionize our personal Bible study, if we let them. In our next lesson we will complete the **Ten Rules for Reading** and then begin to put all these principles into practice.

[END OF VIDEO SESSION FOUR]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. What biblical word for “reading thoughtfully” is found in Psalm 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 148?

Look this word up in an English dictionary and summarize the definition you find there.

2. Using the comparison to reading a novel or a newspaper article, explain why it is important to read a biblical book from the beginning and to read it in one sitting. What do you think are some dangers of isolating passages from their surrounding context?



3. Relate Psalm 119:147-148 to our need to read the Bible patiently. How did this trait appear in the Berean believers of Acts 17:11?
4. Using the six questions discussed in this lesson, briefly analyze Matthew 11:9-14. How many different answers can you find for each of the six questions?
5. How important is the "where" of Luke 2:4? How is that connected to the way you answer "who?" in regard to that same verse?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. Read Psalm 19:9-11. In your own words, summarize each descriptive phrase as it applies to the Word of God, then summarize the consequences of each.
2. Based on each phrase from question #1 above, briefly describe what your approach to reading the Bible should be, and why.

NOTES

3. Read Revelation 1:9-11, then briefly answer the six questions discussed in this lesson. What is necessary in order to answer all the questions fully? What does this teach us concerning effective observation?

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Using the chart below, answer as many of the observation questions as possible for each of the passages (use a separate sheet of paper if necessary):

	John 14:6	Acts 20:24	Proverbs 3:5-6	2 Corinthians 5:14-15
Who?				
What?				
Where?				
When?				
Why?				
Wherefore?				

Session Five  
*Ten Rules for Reading—Part II*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- In one of his *Just-So* stories, Rudyard Kipling wrote:

I keep six honest serving men  
(They taught me all I knew);  
Their names are What and Why and When  
And How and Where and Who.

- Charles Spurgeon is well known in modern church history for his many contributions to Christian preaching and literature. In his lifetime he produced 135 books, edited 28 others, and contributed many more shorter writings to the church. In spite of his thorough studies, however, he once said, "The quarry of the Holy Scriptures is inexhaustible. I seem hardly to have begun to labor in it; but the selection of the next block, and the consideration as to how to work it into form, are matters not so easy as some think."

- Paul's warning to Timothy sounds as if it could have been written just yesterday:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths."

—2 Timothy 4:3-4

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- Though accounts of the demise of Fletcher Christian vary, the outcome of the *Bounty* mutineers is well known. After nine mutineers, twelve Tahitian women and six Tahitian men put ashore on Pitcairn Island in 1790, jealousy, treachery, drunkenness and murder took over. Ten years later, only two white men survived, surrounded by native women and half-breed offspring. When one of them died in 1800, he was the first man on the island to die a natural death. When the sole remaining mutineer was

discovered in 1808, it was found he had at one point discovered a Bible. By reading it and teaching it to others, he had instituted a simple, pious little community with no jail, no whiskey, no crime, and no laziness. Such is the transforming power of the Word of God.

- Again, consider Paul's words to Timothy:

"O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called 'knowledge'—which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith."

—1 Timothy 1:20-21

- All the Bible knowledge in the world will do us no good if we are unwilling to let it convict us, instruct us, and deeply affect our lives. Today—if you have never made this commitment before—express to God your desire that the Word of God become the foremost authoritative voice in your life, regardless of what others say or believe.

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

Do you have a plan or system for memorizing Scripture? The Psalmist wrote, "Thy word I have treasured [hidden] in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee." Hiding the Bible in our hearts through memorization is essential to being spiritually equipped when we need it most. If you are not memorizing Scripture on a daily basis, try one of these suggestions:

- Buy a Scripture "memory pack" at a local Christian bookstore and work through it.
- Keep several 3x5 cards in your Bible, and when God touches your life with a verse or passage of Scripture, write it down immediately and keep it with you until it is memorized.
- Set aside a place on the dashboard of your car for a weekly verse or passage you want to memorize.
- Join together with a close Christian friend in memorizing meaningful verses and keeping each other up to date!

As you continue to develop your skills in Bible study methods, you'll find that Bible study and memorizing Scripture go hand-in-hand.

## Looking to the Book

NOTES

### [BEGIN VIDEO SESSION FIVE]

#### Introduction

As we have already learned, in order to study the Bible effectively, we will use a three-step process of **Observation, Interpretation, and Application**.

In order to carry out the first step—Observation—we must first **learn how to read** more effectively. To that end, we are looking at **Ten Rules for Reading**, and have already considered the first four:

**I. Read the Bible *thoughtfully*.**

**II. Read the Bible *repeatedly*.**

**III. Read the Bible *patiently*.**

**IV. Read the Bible *selectively*.**

Now let's examine the final six rules.

**V. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.**

Learn to pray *before, after, and during* your Bible study.

- If you really want to learn how to pray . . .
  - listen to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - take \_\_\_\_\_ and turn it into prayer.

**VI. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"The reason the Bible appears dull to people is that they come to it with dull minds."*

**VII. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.**

We cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ in a hurry.

**VIII. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.**

Every time you read a passage ask, "What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of this passage? How will it instruct me in the path of \_\_\_\_\_?"

**IX. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.**

Read not only to *receive* it, but to \_\_\_\_\_ it; not only to *perceive* it, but to *possess* it.

**X. Read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.**

We need to read it in light of the *whole*. The Bible is not simply a collection of parts; it is an \_\_\_\_\_ message. Every time we take it apart, we need to put it back together again.

**PRACTICE: Mark 5:24*****The Woman's Perspective***

*The Lord's Perspective*

As Sherlock Holmes used to say, "Watson, some of us see, but we do not \_\_\_\_\_."

[END OF VIDEO SESSION FIVE]

**Working in the Book**

***LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

1. What role did prayer play in each of the following encounters with the Word of God?

- 2 Chronicles 34:14-27
- 2 Samuel 12:1-7 and Psalm 51
- Daniel 2:19-23
- Psalm 119:27-29

2. What spiritual activity is found in Psalm 145:1-7? What would be the most obvious way of applying this verse?
3. If you wanted to read John 9:1-34 imaginatively, from whose perspectives could you examine the events recorded there? What difference would these perspectives make in what you discover in this passage?
4. What do Psalm 46:10 and Isaiah 40:31 reveal to those who want to draw closer to God?  
What does this teach us about how to study the Bible?
5. What were God's instructions to Joshua in Joshua 1:8?  
What results did He promise?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. Look in a translation that clearly marks Old Testament quotations in the New Testament (i.e. *New American Standard Bible*). Of the 23 verses representing Peter's sermon in Acts 2:14-36, how many are direct quotations from the Old Testament? What does this indicate about the usefulness of memorizing Scripture?



2. List all the ways you can think of in which prayer might play a part in your study of the Bible—before, during, and after.

3. Read the prayer found in Nehemiah 9:5-38. How did the people know of the events recounted in this prayer (e. g., where were they found)? Now look back at verse 3 in the same chapter. Based on this, explain in your own words the relationship between a knowledge of Scripture and one's prayer life in times of crisis.

4. Look again at John 9:1-34. List your observations of this episode from the viewpoint of:

—The disciples

—The neighbors and witnesses

—The religious leaders

—The parents of the man born blind

—The man born blind

—The Lord

—Yourself

5. What does Colossians 1:9-12 seem to indicate about the length of time needed for spiritual growth through studying the Word of God (compare Col. 3:16-17).

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Read psalm 106, then answer the following:

1. How many different biblical episodes are referred to in this Psalm? Using the cross references in the margin of your Bible, list the place each episode can be found.
2. What unifying theme or common outcome can you find among all these episodes? What contrasts can you see?
3. How did the psalmist know about the events recorded in this psalm?

4. Why do you think these episodes were recounted in this psalm? What was the point?

NOTES

5. What correlation(s) between this psalm and your own spiritual life can you draw based on these basic observations?

## Session Six

### *Learning How to Look*

#### **Preparing for the Book**

##### ***STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- Most of us are familiar with the Pony Express and its oft-romanticized contribution to the history of the Old West. But for all its glamor, it was a business enterprise—and was run like one. To ferry mail across the open expanse of the western U. S., it ran 1900 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. The trip was made in about 10 days, using 40 men who each sped about 50 miles, using a total of 500 fine horses in the process. To conserve weight, clothing was very light, saddles were extremely small, and no weapons were carried. The mail pouches were also small and light, and letters carried by the express cost \$5 per ounce for postage. Yet for all the efficiency in weight, one thing was not sacrificed—every rider carried a full-size Bible, presented to him when he joined the Pony Express. By contrast, in our day of ease and convenience, how often are we found without the Word of God at our side?

- “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.”  
—1 John 5:2

- In the midst of that age called “The Enlightenment,” deism was sweeping Europe and the famous infidel, Voltaire, proclaimed that within 25 years the Bible would be forgotten and Christianity would be a thing of the past. Forty years after his death in 1778, however, the Bible and other Christian literature were being printed in what had once been Voltaire’s own house.

- “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.”  
—Isaiah 40:7

## ***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

NOTES

- Martin Luther is reported to have said concerning his own study of the Scriptures:

"I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I shake the Bible as a whole like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb—study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings."

- "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does."

—James 1:23-25

- *Fast Fact:* Out of approximately 667 recorded prayers in the Bible, there are about 454 recorded answers.

- As you open God's Word to study *how* to study it, spend a minute or two examining your life in the perfect light of His Word. If He reveals sin in your life, deal with it now—on the basis of 1 John 1:9—that your study of Him and His truth might not be hindered.

## ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

One inexpensive tool (available in paperback for less than \$4) that can help us tremendously in our study of the Bible is *A Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms* by Joseph Devlin. Why is this little book so helpful? As many of us who have been believers for many years know, we tend to fall into a pattern of Christian terminology and jargon that often keeps us from making the crucial connection between what we observe in God's Word and where we live in this world. A tool that offers a variety of parallel

or contrasting words can effectively snap us out of that mode and open up our perspective. Of course, we need to follow through and discover each biblical word's meaning according to its usage in ancient times—but a tool like Devlin's book can be a great help in phrasing what we have learned in a way we can remember and apply it.

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION SIX]

### Introduction

By way of review, we have already seen that there are two essential components to quality observation:

- (1) We must learn how to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) We must learn how to \_\_\_\_\_.

In this lesson we will deal with the second of these two components.

Like a doctor who knows what to look for in a patient, we need to know what to look for in God's Word. Let's consider six things to look for.

### I. Look for things that are \_\_\_\_\_.

The Spirit of God uses a number of ways to emphasize material, including:

- A. The amount of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The stated \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the material.
- D. Movement from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Look for things that are \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES

These may be terms, phrases, or clauses.

Examples:

— Psalm 136

— Hebrews 11

— Others:

## III. Look for things that are \_\_\_\_\_.

The biblical authors may show relationship in a number of ways.

A. Movement from the general to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Example:

B. Questions and \_\_\_\_\_.

Example:

C. \_\_\_\_\_ and effect.

Example:

**IV. Look for things that are \_\_\_\_\_.**

Expressions to look for:

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Example:

**V. Look for things that are unlike, or in \_\_\_\_\_, or opposite.**

Key word: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Example:

**VI. Look for things that are true to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Examples:

A. Abraham

B. Moses

C. David

D. Peter

E. John Mark



***"People have not changed. Believers in the Bible  
are just like us!"***

[END OF VIDEO SESSION SIX]

## **Working in the Book**

### ***LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

1. In what way does God emphasize the importance of people, and specifically the descendants of Abraham, in the Book of Genesis?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What key concept is communicated through repetition in Hebrews 11? In Psalm 150?  
In 1 Corinthians 13?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What development of relationship do you find in Ephesians 5:10-11, 13-18?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What does James use to get his point across in James 2:14-17; 3:13; 4:1-4?

5. To what similar circumstances are unbelievers among believers compared in Jude 4-8, 11?

6. What contrast is emphasized in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18? How is this contrast established?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. Read each of the following passages, then briefly explain what is being emphasized and how that emphasis is established:

— John 17

— Proverbs 3

— Ephesians 1

2. In Psalm 119 we find emphasis by the amount of space devoted to it (it is the longest of all the psalms) and also through repetition. Briefly summarize what is being emphasized and what you think that indicates.

3. Summarize the comparisons found in each of the following passages:

— Psalm 127:3-5

— Genesis 15:5

— Ephesians 5:22-23

— Psalm 61:3

4. Trace the contrast established and explained in Galatians 5:19-23. Can you simplify this contrast into a chart?

5. What is particularly “true to life” about the following passages?

— Matthew 1:18-25

— Nehemiah 5:1-13

— 2 Samuel 11:1-5

— Mark 14:66-72

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Without using any of the passages listed in the lesson or in the questions above, find at least three examples in Scripture (and provide a brief explanation) of each of the following:

1. Emphasis through the amount of space devoted to it:
2. Emphasis through movement from the lesser to the greater:
3. Repetition of terms, phrases, or clauses:
4. Ideas or concepts related through the use of movement from general to specific, questions and answers, or cause and effect:
5. Ideas or concepts that are presented as alike or as opposites:
6. Episodes that are true to life and reveal the unchangeableness of truth or human nature:

Session Seven  
*Principles in Practice—One Verse*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- During the peak of America's pioneer excursions into space, Walter F. Burke, vice-president of the McConnell Aircraft Corporation, was general manager of the Mercury and Gemini projects. He also taught Sunday school in his church. In addition, in one interview he reportedly affirmed, "I have found nothing in science or space exploration to compel me to throw away my Bible or to reject my Savior, Jesus Christ, in whom I trust. The space age has been a factor in the deepening of my own spiritual life. I read the Bible more now. I get from the Bible what I cannot get from science—the really important things of life."

- "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."

—*Titus 2:1*

- "The Bible is a storehouse of whose contents no one can afford to be ignorant. It repays reading and study whether it be approached merely because of its literary value, or its ethical teachings, or its practical bearing on everyday life."

—*Dwight L. Moody*

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."

—*Psalms 139:23-24*

- "To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, to find the will of God is the greatest discovery, and to do the will of God is the greatest achievement."

—*George W. Truett*

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”

—*Proverbs 1:7*

- Like the child attempting to build a model car without first reading the instructions, the Christian who attempts to “find” the will of God without first reading and submitting to the Instruction Book is destined to an experience of frustration, failure, and a less-than attractive finished product.

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

Beginning with this lesson, we will begin to put into practice some of the principles of observation we have discovered together. Therefore it would be helpful to be as prepared for this process as we would for any other time of study and instruction. The list below is “minimum” of tools needed for this session:

- Bible
- Notebook paper
- Pen or pencil
- All previous lesson notes

In addition, it would be helpful for you to prepare ahead of time by reading Acts 1:1-11 several times and making up to 25 observations *in verse 8 only* based on the material covered in lessons 1-6.

## Looking to the Book

NOTES

### [BEGIN VIDEO SESSION SEVEN]

#### Introduction:

Now that we have taken a thorough look at the process of observation, let's use some of our new skills to dig into the Word of God for ourselves. The verse we will examine is Acts 1:8 —

*<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Let's move through this verse observation by observation.

#### Observation:

The word \_\_\_\_\_.

This word indicates \_\_\_\_\_ and forces us to be back into the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Observation:

The word \_\_\_\_\_.

This word is a coordinate that links together that which comes before it and that which comes \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Observation:

Who are these people? They are the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Observation:**

*What* do we know about these people?

- They \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus during His ministry.
- God \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- They are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their racial and religious background was \_\_\_\_\_.
- By trade, many of them were \_\_\_\_\_.
- Other observations:

**Observation:**

*What* is the verb? "You shall \_\_\_\_\_."

**Observation:**

*When* will it happen? This will happen in the \_\_\_\_\_ (from the time it was spoken).

**Observation:**

*What* will they receive? They will receive \_\_\_\_\_. This can be translated "ability." Here Jesus is not talking about physical power, but the ability to accomplish what He wants them to.



**Observation:**

*Cause and effect:* The \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't come until the \_\_\_\_\_ comes!

**Observation:**

*Who* is the Holy Spirit?

Answers:

This means that Christ was talking about a \_\_\_\_\_ power, which these people did not yet possess.

**Observation:**

*Cause and effect:* When the power comes, they will be \_\_\_\_\_. And notice the order: *First* they will receive \_\_\_\_\_, then they will become \_\_\_\_\_.

**Observation:**

They will become *whose* witnesses? \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES

**Observation:**

*What* is a witness?

— Someone who has \_\_\_\_\_ something.

— Someone who has \_\_\_\_\_ something.

— Someone who has \_\_\_\_\_ something.

**Observation:**

*Where* will they be His witnesses? In \_\_\_\_\_  
different places mentioned here.

(1) In \_\_\_\_\_. They will begin their witness at \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) In \_\_\_\_\_. This was the province in which Jerusalem was located. They were to move from a *local* ministry to a *regional* ministry.

(3) In \_\_\_\_\_. True Jews in the time of Christ hated Samaritans and had no dealings with them—yet the Lord said they were to take the gospel there, too.

(4) In the uttermost part of the \_\_\_\_\_. This word means the *inhabited* earth.

## Conclusions:

NOTES

So far, from this one verse we have discovered at least three things about the Book of Acts:

(1) It is a book about \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) It is a book about \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) It is a book about \_\_\_\_\_.

All this from one verse—and we've only begun!

[END OF VIDEO SESSION SEVEN]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

Conduct this same process of intensive observation on the following verses:

1. Acts 20:24

2. 2 Timothy 2:2

3. Matthew 6:25

4. 1 Timothy 6:10

5. Jeremiah 15:16

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. For each of the verses in *Level One* above, list three to five conclusions in a way that would be easy to communicate to others.
2. For at least three of the verses above, make a chart, diagram, or other creative summary that you feel communicates the most obvious point(s) of the verse.
3. For at least two of the verses above, make a list of further observations about the chapter in which the verses are found, especially those things that have a direct bearing on understanding these verses.
4. For at least one of the verses above, begin a file folder or notebook for future study of the biblical book in which it is found. Include in your folder or notebook your findings from this study.

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Repeat the process of observation—and of questions 1-4 in *Level Two*, for:

1. Joshua 24:15
2. John 9:3
3. Romans 1:16
4. John 3:16
5. Galatians 5:22-23

Session Eight  
*Principles in Practice: One Paragraph*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “There is a basic difference between an explorer and a tourist. The tourist travels quickly, stopping only to observe the highly noticeable or publicized points of interest. The explorer, on the other hand, takes his time to search out all the he can find. Too many of us read the Bible like a tourist and then complain that our devotional times are fruitless. It is necessary that we take time to explore the Bible. Notable nooks and crannies will appear as we get beneath the surface.”

—*Michael P. Green*

- More often than not, a person’s last words in this life best reveal the true condition of the heart. As Scottish poet and novelist Walter Scott was dying in 1832, he asked to be taken into his library and placed by the window so he could see the River Tweed. Then he asked his son-in-law to read to him. “What book shall I read?” asked the relative. Scott replied, “What book? There is but one—the Bible.”

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

—*John 1:1*

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great spoil.”

—*Psalms 119:162*

- “It is not enough to own a Bible; we must read it. It is not enough to read it; we must let it speak to us. It is not enough to let it speak to us; we must believe it. It is not enough to believe it; we must live it.”

—*William A. Ward*

- “A readiness to believe every promise implicitly, to obey every command unhesitatingly, to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God, is the only true spirit of Bible study.”

—Andrew Murray

- “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.”

—Proverbs 30:5-6

- “No one ever graduates from Bible study until he meets its Author face to face.”

—Everett Harris

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

By now it has become evident that personal Bible study is a lot of work—and a lot of reward! If you are like many others, God has already been speaking to you through His Word during our “Observation” exercises. This does not mean we won’t press on through “Interpretation” to a more detailed look at “Application”; but it does mean that you are “rightly dividing the word of truth” in a responsible and beneficial way!

An excellent companion to your Bible and Bible study notebook from this point on would be a personal journal of some type. It needn’t be fancy—a simple “blank book” or spiral notebook will do. What you put into it will give it its value in your life as your record (daily, if possible) what God is teaching you personally through the portions of His Word that you study on your own.

As with the previous lesson, if possible you should spend some time reading, re-reading, and then making observations in the selected passage (Nehemiah 1:4-11) before beginning this video session.

## [BEGIN VIDEO SESSION EIGHT]

**Introduction**

In our previous lesson we examined one verse and saw that even a very small portion of the Word of God can provide a wealth of information and insight. Now we move on to the next largest unit of thought, one paragraph. In this lesson we are going to broaden our scope to take in this larger unit, as represented by **Nehemiah 1:4-11**.

*"Now it came about when I heard these words, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. <sup>7</sup>We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' <sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.*

**Observation:**

The context forces us back to verse \_\_\_\_\_ for the *context*.

**Observation:**

Verse 1 gives us three important clues:

- (1) It tells us *who* the \_\_\_\_\_ is.
- (2) It tells us something of the nature or \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.
- (3) It tells us about the \_\_\_\_\_ from which the author came.

**Observation:**

The last part of verse 1 answers part of the question "*when?*" and the question "*where?*"

(1) *When?* The month of Kislev, in the 20th year. Actually, the rest of this date is not given until 2:1.

(2) *Where?* In the citadel or palace of \_\_\_\_\_.  
This was the royal winter palace, and it was no shack!

**Observation:**

Hanani, one of Nehemiah's brothers, and some other Jews came to Nehemiah, and he asked them about two things:

(1) His \_\_\_\_\_; and

(2) His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Observation:**

This dialogue is an obvious *question/answer* situation, and the answer these people gave is in the same order as the question:

(1) The people: They are in great affliction and shame.

(2) The place: The walls are broken down and the \_\_\_\_\_ are burned with fire.

This shows us that God's order is \_\_\_\_\_ first, then the \_\_\_\_\_.



**Observation:**

When Nehemiah heard this news, he sat down and did four things:

(1) He \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) He \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) He \_\_\_\_\_.

(4) He \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: The first two actions were *emotional*. The second two were \_\_\_\_\_. This was Nehemiah's total response.

**Observation:**

What follows next is Nehemiah's prayer to God. Let's examine this prayer closely.

*What* begins his prayer (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_.

*What* comes next (vv. 6-7)? \_\_\_\_\_.

*What* comes last (vv. 8-11)? \_\_\_\_\_.

Is this a pattern throughout Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_.

Parallel passage: Isaiah 6:1-8.

**Observation:**

The last statement of verse 11 tells us that Nehemiah was "\_\_\_\_\_ to the king."

*What* was a cupbearer?

This means that God had Nehemiah in a very \_\_\_\_\_ position so that He could use him for His honor and glory.

### Conclusion:

When we come to a passage of Scripture, we need to do three things:

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ it over and over again. The more we do, the more clear it will become.
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ something. Write some notes. This will help us remember the material and use it.
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on what we have discovered.

***"We must come to the Word of God expecting to learn from Him."***

[END OF VIDEO SESSION EIGHT]

### Working in the Book

#### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

Apply your observation skills to the following paragraphs:

1. Colossians 3:1-5
2. Isaiah 40:27-31
3. 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3

4. Philippians 4:11-13

NOTES

5. Colossians 1:9-12

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. For each of the paragraphs above, list at least three conclusions based on your observations.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Summarize each of the paragraphs above in one "theme" statement.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Based on your conclusions and theme statement, find at least three parallel passages for each of the above paragraphs.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Select one of the passages in *Level One* above and illustrate your theme and conclusions visually in a chart or diagram suitable for use in teaching.

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Implement thorough observation and complete questions 1-4 from *Level Two* for the passages listed below:

1. Hebrews 12:1-2

2. 2 Peter 3:3-9

3. 1 John 2:15-17

4. Revelation 3:14-16

5. Psalm 91:1-4

Session Nine  
*Principles in Practice: One Segment*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have taught you today, even you.”

—Proverbs 22:17-19

- What is the most persistent obstacle to your Bible study time? For many people, it is the television. According to some experts, by age 65 the average child today will have spent about 9 years of 24-hour days sitting in front of the tube. How much time will have been spent in Bible study? On the average, even if he goes to Sunday school every Sunday during those 65 years, he will have spent about 4 months in study of the Scriptures.

- “No man really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions”.

—Charles P. Steinmetz

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “For all His ordinances were before me; and as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.”

*King David, in 2 Samuel 22:23*

- There was reportedly a time in the British navy when—in the event of a sudden disaster such as an explosion—it was the bugler’s duty to play what was called “The Still.” When the men heard this call, they were to stop perfectly quiet for a moment, regain their bearings and their senses, and then proceed better prepared for intelligent action. Isn’t this what a daily time in the Word of God really is all about? How much better prepared we will be if we hear God’s call to “be still” in our own lives.

- “The foolishness of God is wiser than men . . . .”  
—1 Corinthians 1:25a

- What was the formula for dynamic Christian living used by the great evangelist Billy Sunday? “Take 15 minutes each day to listen to God talking to you. Take 15 minutes each day to talk to God. Take 15 minutes each day to talk to others about God.”

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

Already we are nine lessons into our course on Bible study methods, and we have not yet even mentioned *commentaries* in the study guide. The reason for that, as you may have guessed, is that the emphasis in this course is on learning how to study the Bible on our own and reach our own conclusions. Yet, particularly for those who have already conducted a thorough investigation into the biblical text, some commentaries can be helpful for answering tough questions or solving problems (or *creating* them!). For those who are unfamiliar with them, commentaries are basically the product of someone else’s work in the Scriptures—and they range from very “light,” sermon-type commentaries to very “heavy,” scholarly volumes.

What is important to remember is that in no instance whatsoever will commentaries ever adequately replace one’s own study of the Bible. And, as we have already heard, it is amazing how much light the Bible can shed on the commentaries! If, however, you are just starting your library and want to add something in the way of Bible commentaries, you might want to begin with a good one- or two-volume layman’s commentary, such as *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* in two volumes. If you need further advice in regard to commentaries, you may want to ask your pastor, a mature Christian friend, or the manager of your local Christian bookstore.

Whatever your use of commentaries, remember that the order should always *be do your own study first . . . and second . . . and third. Then*, if you are really stuck, take a peek at the commentaries . . . and go study some more!

## Looking to the Book

NOTES

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION NINE]

### Introduction

What's next? First we used our observation skills to examine one verse. Then we moved on to examine one full paragraph, which is a collection of verses that revolve around a single \_\_\_\_\_.

Now we will move on to what is called a \_\_\_\_\_; that is, a collection of paragraphs united by a common theme. For this exercise we first need to read **Mark 4-5**. (For this session, keep these chapters open in front of you.)

### Observation:

The first thing we recognize is that within these two chapters we actually find *two* segments:

- (1) In Mark 4:1-34, we have the \_\_\_\_\_ segment.
- (2) In Mark 4:35-5:43, we have the \_\_\_\_\_ segment. Within this second segment we find *four* miracles:
  - (a) The miracle of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) The miracle of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) The miracle of the \_\_\_\_\_ with an issue of blood.
  - (d) The raising of Jairus' \_\_\_\_\_.

At this point, we can summarize these two major sections a couple of other ways, such as:

4:1 - 34 = Teaching      4:35 - 5:43 = Testing

or

4:1 - 34 = Lecture      4:35 - 5:43 = Laboratory

### New Concept:

The "Grid Chart."

In this exercise we want to take a closer look at the *parable* segment of these two chapters, but these four miracles represent a lot of material that somehow needs to be organized. To do that, we are going to use the "Grid Chart" below. In this session, as we make observations about the text, use your Grid Chart to record your findings.

## MARK 4:35-5:43

THE MIRACLE	THE REALM	THE PEOPLE	THE MEANS	THE RESULTS	THEIR FAITH



Now that your chart is filled in, you can study a lot of material in an organized manner, in one of two ways:

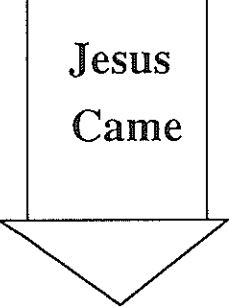
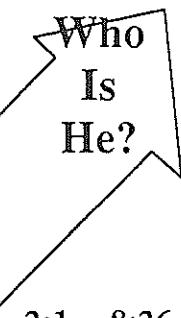
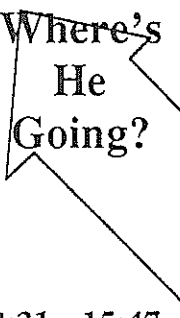
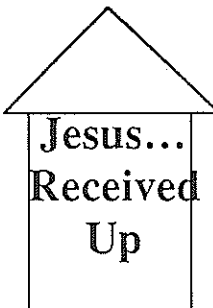
- (1) You can study it *compositely*, going horizontally across the chart and looking at all the aspects of each miracle.
- (2) You can study it *comparatively*, moving vertically through the Grid Chart and comparing each element of all the episodes.

### A Word About Charts:

One of the greatest ways to summarize material is to put it in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, especially when you need to visualize a lot of material. Consider these examples:

NOTES

## The Gospel of Mark

<i>"Came to Serve"</i>		<i>and</i>	<i>"Give His Life"</i>	
PROLOGUE	SERVICE		SACRIFICE	EPILOGUE
 Jesus Came 1:1-45	 Who Is He? 2:1 8:26	Who Do People Say That I Am? 8:27 30	 Where's He Going? 8:31 15:47	 Jesus... Received Up 16:1-20
His Person		and	His Purpose	

# SYLLABUS FOR SUFFERING SAINTS

## How to Hold Up — Not Fold Up

1 PETER	SALVATION	SUBMISSION	SUFFERING
	the privileges of salvation 1:2-12	in the state 2:13-17; civil	as a citizen 3:13-4:6
	the products of salvation 1:13-25	in the household 2:18-25; social	as a saint 4:7-19
	the process of salvation 2:1-10	in the family 3:1-7; domestic	as a shepherd 5:1-7
			as a soldier 5:8-11
	DOCTRINE IS DYNAMIC!	THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE-STYLE!	THE CHISEL TO SHAPE THE SOUL!
	1:3      2:10	2:11      3:12	3:13      5:11
	The DESTINY of the Christian	The DUTY of the Christian	The DISCIPLINE of the Christian

# MALACHI

## “The Wail of Wounded Love”

	REBUKE	WARNING	APPEAL	
Intro 1:1-5	Priests 1:6 - 2:9	Accusation 2:17	Response 3:7 - 18	Concl. 4:4-6
	People 2:10 - 16	Announcement 2:17      3:6	Reason 3:7      4:3	
	1:6    2:16	2:17      3:6	3:7      4:3	

### Conclusion:

In learning the first step of Bible study methods—Observation—we have applied its principles to one verse, to one paragraph, and to one segment (and have seen examples of one entire book). We also have seen the importance of summarizing our findings in visual form.

In our next lesson, then, we will move on to the next step of our three step process: Interpretation.

[END OF VIDEO SESSION NINE]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. Read Revelation 2-3, make careful observations, then complete the chart below:

## REVELATION 2-3

Title:					
Theme:					
VV.	Location of Church	What they did right	What they did wrong	What they need to do	Message to "Overcomers" (See I John 5:4-5)

2. State a one-sentence theme for this segment of Scripture.
3. Give your chart a title that summarizes what it contains.

- HEBREWS 11

[illegible]

- © Copyright 1990, Video Ministries. Do not reproduce.

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Read the Book of Jonah all the way through at least three times. Then, using the chart below, complete the following exercises:

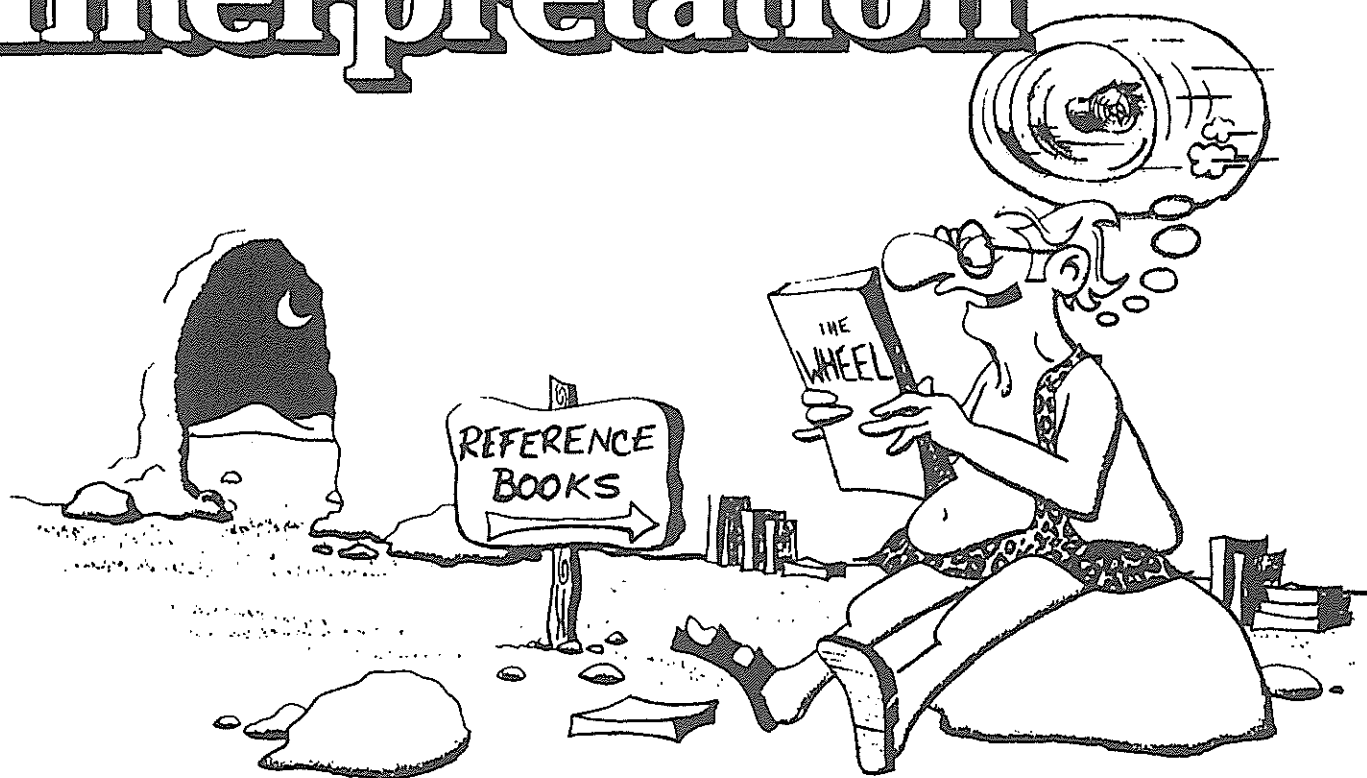
Theme:

JONAH			Key Verse

1. Along the top of the chart, write a one-sentence theme for the book.
2. At the top of the chapter columns, assign a title to each chapter, preferably beginning with "Jonah . . .", such as, "Jonah runs from God" (Chapter One).
3. Within each chapter column, note the verses that constitute each paragraph, and give a brief summary of the paragraph; such as (in Chapter One), "vv. 1-3: God calls and Jonah flees," and "vv. 4-9: The sailors panic and Jonah confesses," and so on throughout the book.
4. Finally, assign a key verse to the book and note it in the appropriate spot on the chart. What you have once you've completed this chart is your own personal, in-depth look at Jonah contained in a form that can be taught to others!

NOTES

# Interpretation



***What Does It Mean?***

## Session One

*Interpretation: The Road to Real Meaning***Preparing for the Book*****STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

—2 Timothy 2:15

- “One of the reasons mature people stop learning is that they become less and less willing to risk failure.”

—John W. Gardner

- “The Word of God is not a rubber nose that you can twist to suit your face.”

—Earl Radmacher

- “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

—2 Peter 1:20-21

***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you.”

—Colossians 3:16a

- “Our great problem is the problem of trafficking in unlivd truth. We try to communicate what we’ve never experienced in our own lives.”

—D. L. Moody

- “My rule for Christian living is this: anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it.”

—Dr. Wilbur Chapman



- “I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

—1 Timothy 6:13-14

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

Finally we are ready to move on to the second step of Bible study, that of interpretation. As we will see, interpreting the Bible is hard, serious work—but more than well worth the toil! Before we launch into this step, it is important for us to understand that it *is* possible to interpret the Bible confidently and accurately. In our “everything is relative” society, many Christians have given up the fight for Bible truth, believing that what the Bible teaches simply depends on one’s interpretation. In other words, there are not right or wrong answers.

The Bible tells us something entirely different. In fact, the point of 2 Peter 1:20-21 is *not* that we cannot interpret the Bible for ourselves—rather, the point is that one’s interpretation needs to square with the rest of the Word of God, since the same Spirit of God “moved” holy men during the process of inspiration. This is *not* a warning to not interpret the Bible; rather, it is an encouragement to always interpret the Bible by using the Bible, first and foremost. Our most valuable tool for interpreting and understanding any portion of Scripture always is the rest of the Scriptures, taken in their historical and grammatical context, using sound-minded and level-headed principles of interpretation and common sense.

We will see this in much more detail as we continue in our video study of Bible Study Methods.

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION ONE]

### Introduction:

Some people, knowing nothing about Christianity, think that Christian faith is a matter of \_\_\_\_\_ what we know is not true.

When you become a Christian, you do not shift your mind into \_\_\_\_\_.

In this session, we begin to turn our attention to the second major step in Bible Study Methods, the step of \_\_\_\_\_.

Note the connection between the two:

- In **observation** we asked, "What do I \_\_\_\_\_?"

In **interpretation** we ask, "What does it \_\_\_\_\_?"

- In **observation** we \_\_\_\_\_.
- In **interpretation** we \_\_\_\_\_.

Buildings are always determined by their \_\_\_\_\_.

To \_\_\_\_\_ well is to \_\_\_\_\_ well.

We are always observing with a view to \_\_\_\_\_ and eventually \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures.

We can refer to the step of interpretation as the " \_\_\_\_\_ " process. We are attempting to stand in the author's shoes and to recreate his experience.

We are asking, "What did this mean to \_\_\_\_\_?" before we ever ask, "What does it mean to \_\_\_\_\_?"

It is impossible to apply the Word of God until you \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Interpretation takes \_\_\_\_\_, and it takes \_\_\_\_\_.

Learning how to interpret the Bible does not mean we are going to \_\_\_\_\_ everything in it.

### Five Principles to the Process:

#### Principle One: \_\_\_\_\_

There is a cause/effect relationship between the \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_.

For the content, we employ the results of our \_\_\_\_\_ studies. All of these provide us with the raw material with which we are going to \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures.

The more time you spend in \_\_\_\_\_, the less time you will spend in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Principle Two: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ always refers to that which goes before and that which follows. Any time we break into the middle of a passage, we always need to look at its \_\_\_\_\_.

Every major \_\_\_\_\_ is built on a violation of this principle.

Whenever you study a passage, you need to examine the \_\_\_\_\_.

[END OF VIDEO SESSION ONE]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. Briefly review your observations of Mark 5:24-34. What was the immediate context of this encounter?

2. What is the context in terms of Christ's life and ministry?

3. What is the context in terms of the New Testament?

4. What is the context in terms of the entire Bible?

5. Briefly summarize what you think each of these might have in understanding this passage.

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

NOTES

1. From Hebrews 11, select at least three different Old Testament characters mentioned and give the historical context of their lives as the Bible reveals it. How do these affect your understanding of Hebrews 11? How do they affect the statement that follows in Hebrews 12:1-2?

2. Briefly explain the context of Acts 1:1-8, placing it where it belongs in the chain of events from the crucifixion to the ascension. What impact does this make on properly understanding this passage? Is there another major event beyond the ascension that needs to be included in an explanation of its historical context?

3. Based on this overall context of Acts 1:6-8, why do you think the disciples asked the Lord the question of verse 6? How does this affect your understanding of verses 7-8?

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

1. Returning to your work in the Book of Jonah, can you discover the historical context of this book in relation to the nation of Israel?

2. Using whatever Bible study tools you have available to you, what can you discover about the nation of Assyria at this point in their history? What were they like politically, militarily, socially, and religiously? How does this expanded context help you better understand Jonah?

3. Can Jonah's reaction in chapter 4 be understood apart from the context of this episode? Why or why not?

4. Why is context important in relation to the following verses?

—Romans 7:24

—1 Corinthians 6:9-10

—James 2:24

## Session Two

### *Interpretation: Letting the Bible Explain Itself*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “Private interpretation never meant that individuals have the right to distort the Scriptures. With the right of private interpretation comes the sober responsibility of accurate interpretation. Private interpretation gives us license to interpret, not to distort.”

—R. C. Sproul

- “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

—Ephesians 6:17

- “The Bible is God’s chart for you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbor is, and how to reach it without running on rocks or bars.”

—Henry Ward Beecher

- “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

—Romans 15:4

- “There’s no better book with which to defend the Bible than the Bible itself.”

—D. L. Moody

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “The study of God’s Word brings peace to the heart. In it, we find a light for every darkness, life in death, the promise of our Lord’s return, and the assurance of everlasting glory.”

—D. L. Moody

- “Deal with Thy servant according to Thy lovingkindness, and teach me Thy statutes.”

—*Psalm 119:124*

- “There is no doubt that God has often brought a certain verse to the attention of one of His children in an unusual and almost miraculous manner, for a special need; but the Word was never intended to be consulted in a superstitious manner.”

—*S. Maxwell Coder*

- “How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.”

—*Psalm 112:1*

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

Now that we are well into the second step of Bible study, you have probably noticed that in asking and answering questions of the text, we never move very far away from the Scriptures themselves. In other words, just as we made observations by asking questions and letting the text answer them, we now engage in interpretation by asking questions and letting the text answer those as well. Through the years, believers have been very good at asking questions in regard to biblical meaning; but far too often we have answered those questions based on personal opinion, popular consensus, gut feelings, the persuasiveness of an argument, or simply pooled ignorance. As we will see as we continue in the process of interpretation, the best way to interpret the Bible is to let Scripture explain Scripture.

How do we do that? By taking our questions to the text first and foremost, and by letting the Bible—in context—give us answers wherever possible. This is not simply a matter of finding “prooftexts” to back up our preconceived notions. It is a matter of discovering the great unity and consistency of Scripture in regard to all things. That involves hard work, but it is work well invested.

As we began examining the second step Bible study, we looked at the first two of five means or principles of interpretation. Now we come to the third and fourth principles of understanding what the Word of God is saying.



## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION TWO]

NOTES

### Introduction:

Interpretation asks and answers the question, "What does it \_\_\_\_\_?"

The first principle of interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_. This provides the \_\_\_\_\_ out of which we will build our interpretation.

The second principle of interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_. This discovers what goes \_\_\_\_\_ and what \_\_\_\_\_.

### Principle Three: \_\_\_\_\_

This refers to comparing \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. The greatest interpreter of Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ itself.

Although the Bible has more than \_\_\_\_\_ different authors, the \_\_\_\_\_ books are the result of one Author—the \_\_\_\_\_.

This means that the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_; it hangs together.

The principle of *comparison* brings out our need for a \_\_\_\_\_. This provides a tool whereby we can chase down \_\_\_\_\_.

### Example 1: "believe"

**Example 2: "equip"**

Uses:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Comparing Scripture with Scripture also shows our need to do some \_\_\_\_\_ studies. This is something else we can use a concordance for.

**Example:** \_\_\_\_\_

When we make sure our \_\_\_\_\_ are accurate, we have a basis for \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation.

**Principle Four:** \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_

The key to studying the Bible is to set it against its  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Example:** *Ruth*

Our problem is that we tend to

\_\_\_\_\_ the Bible's period of history.

One of the most important elements of background  
is understanding what life was like during that  
\_\_\_\_\_ of time.

**Example No. 1: *The Last Supper***

Problems:

**Example No. 2: *Psalms 24***

**Example No. 3: *1 Corinthians 8***

The real situation:

**Conclusion:** Always

[END OF VIDEO SESSION TWO]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. Explain in your own words why it is important to compare Scripture with Scripture.
  
2. How might your understanding of Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:5, 12, and 21 be helped by comparing those verses with 1 John 5:4-5?
  
3. Using a concordance, list other passages with which Hebrews 11:31-33 might be compared for greater understanding of the kind of faith this chapter is discussing.
  
4. Why is an understanding of culture and history important in biblical interpretation?
  
5. What situation described in John 4:27 can be explained by an understanding of ancient Near Eastern culture?
  
6. What book(s) are you aware of that would help you in your understanding of cultural and historical background?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

NOTES

1. Compare the following pairs of verses and explain how they complement or explain each other.

—Genesis 37:9-10 with Revelation 12:1

—John 1:1-14 with 1 John 4:2-3

—Genesis 3:15b with Matthew 27:33

—Psalm 110:1 with Mark 16:19 and Hebrews 10:11-13.

2. Why would an understanding of cultural or historical background be helpful in understanding the following passages?

—Ephesians 6:10-17

—Song of Solomon 7:4-5

—Mark 7:24-30

—Romans 14:1-8

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Based on comparison of Scripture to Scripture, answer the following questions:

1. In light of Genesis 3:15, why was it important that Jesus be born of a virgin, as recorded in Matthew 1:23-25?

2. Read 2 Samuel 7:16 and explain the significance of the genealogies of Jesus found in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38. How does this explain what many people called him (as in Matt. 20:30-31)? Why are the two genealogies slightly different?

Based on your research into cultural and historical background, answer the following questions:

3. Describe the scene in the city of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, when the events of Acts 2:1-13 took place. Why were so many people there? Why are so many countries mentioned in verses 9-11? (For a note of comparison, why is this event significant in light of Genesis 11:1-9?)

4. In light of fishing practices on the Sea of Galilee, what was especially unusual about the events of John 21:3-6? Why?

5. What do you think was happening in Corinth, according to 1 Corinthians 1:11-13? Do you think this was unique to Paul's day? Why or why not?

## Session Three

### *Interpretation: Using Qualified Consultants*

NOTES

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “The Lord hath more light and truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word.”

—*Pastor John Robinson*

- “Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”

—*2 John 9*

- “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.”

—*James 3:17*

- “What you bring away from the Bible depends to some extent on what you carry to it.”

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks *through* his telescope, then he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks *at* his telescope, then he does not see anything but that. The Bible is a thing to be looked through, to see that which is beyond; but most people only look at it; and so they see only the dead letter.”

—*Phillips Brooks*

- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

—*Galatians 5:22-23*

- “Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and the angels know of us.”

—Thomas Paine

- “Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.”

—John 17:17

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

In 2 Timothy 2:15 we read, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth,” and our eyes naturally gravitate toward those phrases, “approved to God” and “word of truth.” That’s understandable. We all certainly want to be approved by God during this earthly trek, and intuitively we know that the means to that end is his Word. But let’s not overlook three other crucial phrases in this same verse, because they’re just as important. Those phrases are “be diligent,” “a workman,” and “handling accurately.”

The first phrase, “be diligent,” is translated in some versions as “study.” Either way it tells us that Bible study is going to involve a certain amount of effort, of sitting down and doing what does *not* come naturally—digging in for a little intellectual sweat and toil. The second phrase, “a workman,” lets us know that the process will turn us into a product unto itself. By making the commitment to be diligent in Bible study, you will become a workman, a laborer, a student of the Word. And the third phrase, “handling accurately,” sets the goal in front of our eyes. Do you want to be a workman who is not ashamed? Then be a workman who handles God’s Word accurately—with the same meticulous precision we would expect of our banker, doctor, or accountant! In this session, then, we will look at some of the ways we can begin to limber up our intellectual and spiritual muscles, grab some essential tools, and go to work on the inspired text!



## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION THREE]

NOTES

### Introduction:

Interpretation asks and answers the question, "What does it \_\_\_\_\_?"

The first principle of interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_. This provides the \_\_\_\_\_ out of which we will build our interpretation.

The second principle of interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_. This discovers what goes \_\_\_\_\_ and what \_\_\_\_\_.

The third principle of interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_. This refers to comparing \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

The fourth principle of interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This refers to recreating the cultural setting and not forcing our \_\_\_\_\_ back on theirs.

Now we come to the fifth means of interpretation.

**Principle Five:** \_\_\_\_\_

This refers to using \_\_\_\_\_ in our study of the Bible.

As one carpenter said, "The more tools, the better the \_\_\_\_\_." This is also true in Bible study.

The order is important: First the Word of God; then the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Six Helpful Tools

## 1. A good \_\_\_\_\_ Bible.

A good study Bible has no \_\_\_\_\_.  
But it may have wide \_\_\_\_\_, and cross-  
\_\_\_\_\_ you can use in the process of  
comparison.

A very accurate translation that is good for study is  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

A translation that is a little more contemporary is  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Once you have a good study Bible, do not hesitate  
to \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

## 2. A good \_\_\_\_\_.

You should keep a good exhaustive concordance  
right on your \_\_\_\_\_ while you are studying.  
Two good concordances are \_\_\_\_\_'s and  
\_\_\_\_\_ 's.

A good concordance will help you take advantage  
of the tremendous resources the biblical \_\_\_\_\_  
provide.

## 3. A good Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

In recent years, as a result of \_\_\_\_\_  
discovery, more light has been shed on the Scriptures.

A unique dictionary dealing with the language of  
the New Testament is Vine's *Expository \_\_\_\_\_*  
*of New Testament Words*.

Another good Bible dictionary is *The*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Bible Dictionary* by Dr. Douglas.

A Bible dictionary is arranged \_\_\_\_\_,  
so it is easy to look up biblical terms.

4. A Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

A handbook goes book-by-book through the entire Bible and provides all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ material.

An excellent example of a Bible handbook is *Eerdman's Bible Handbook*.

If you have \_\_\_\_\_, you should teach them to use these \_\_\_\_\_!

Two more good examples are *The Handbook of \_\_\_\_\_ in Bible \_\_\_\_\_*, and \_\_\_\_\_'s *Bible Handbook*.

5. A Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible and its geography is a huge \_\_\_\_\_ spot in our culture.

Some good examples are:

- *The \_\_\_\_\_ Atlas of Bible Lands*
- *The Zondervan \_\_\_\_\_ Bible Atlas*
- *The McMillan Bible Atlas*.

6. A Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

The best way to afford a Bible commentary is to buy a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ commentary.

The \_\_\_\_\_  
*Commentary*, published by Dallas Seminary, comes in two volumes: Old Testament and New Testament.

Commentaries cover every \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible. They give an \_\_\_\_\_ and cover various passages.

A good commentary on Ecclesiastes is the *Tyndale* \_\_\_\_\_ *Commentary*.

A good commentary on Luke is from the \_\_\_\_\_ *Bible Commentary* series.

For digging deeper, the serious student might try the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, which includes \_\_\_\_\_ volumes in the set.

### Conclusion:

No previous generation has had available to it what we can find at most \_\_\_\_\_. We simply need to equip ourselves. The six tools we've talked about in this lesson will provide you with a basic \_\_\_\_\_ you can enrich as you go along.

Remember the danger of depending too much on \_\_\_\_\_ information. The use of resource tools should not be a \_\_\_\_\_ for Bible study; it is a \_\_\_\_\_ for it!

[END OF VIDEO SESSION THREE]

## Working in the Book

NOTES

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

Explain in your own words what can be gained from using each of the following tools. Offer examples if possible.

1. A good study Bible:
2. An exhaustive concordance.
3. A good Bible dictionary.
4. A Bible handbook.
5. A Bible atlas.
6. Bible commentaries.

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

Using each of the above tools (or as many as possible), find at least one informative insight per tool for each of the passages below:

1. Genesis 32:24-32

2. Ruth 3:1-18

3. 1 Samuel 15:1-29

4. Song of Solomon 7:4-5

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

NOTES

Continue the above exercise for the passages below, finding at least *three* insights per tool for each passage.

1. Nehemiah 1:1-11

2. Luke 2:1-20

3. John 4:7-30

4. Acts 16:1-13

5. Revelation 2:12-17

Session Four  
*Interpretation: Romans 12:1-2*

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning.”

—*Proverbs 9:9*

- “Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle; he that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works, and he that is without works is without faith.”

—*Charles H. Spurgeon*

- “Whatever is your best time in the day, give that to communion with God.”

—*Hudson Taylor*

- “I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.”

—*Psalms 16:7*

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

—*1 Peter 3:15*

- “The mark of a saint is not perfection, but consecration. A saint is not a man without faults, but a man who has given himself without reserve to God.”

—*Brooke Foss Westcott*

- “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

—*Galatians 5:25*



• “The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters is that to us it is primarily a performance, to them it was a real experience . . . To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ ‘living in’ them.”

—J. B. Phillips, *Letters to Young Churches*

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

All of the knowledge in the world *about* Bible study will do us absolutely no good at all if we are not involved in the process—not just once or twice, not just to get through a class, but as a way of life, day after day, year after year!

To do that consistently involves a lot more than desire. Desire is where it begins—but discipline is where it takes root and grows. In order to make life-changing study of the Scriptures a life-sustaining habit, we need to look on it not as a drudgery, but as a necessity; not as a chore, but as a challenge; not as work, but as reward!

The best way to begin that process is to set aside a time and place that will be your appointment with the Word of God, as well as with its Author. If you want to put that daily meeting in perspective, first ask yourself what kind of priority you would give to an appointment with your favorite or most respected celebrity, media figure, or world leader. If you were scheduled, for example, for an appointment at the White House, would you show up? If you received a note from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court requesting a meeting, would you be on time?

How much greater is our Lord than any earthly personality!? He is the One we have the privilege of meeting with daily—if we take the time and courtesy to be there. Once we are there, however, we have the privilege of not only talking to Him through prayer, but also of letting Him talk to us through His Word. And, as we will see in this lesson, being equipped to study and understand the Word of God leaves us without excuse for not showing up!

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION FOUR]

### Involvement in the Process: *Romans 12:1-2*

#### CONTENT:

The first thing we can observe about this verse is its \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES:

#### CONTEXT:

The word “therefore” forces us to go \_\_\_\_\_.

The theme of Romans is found in \_\_\_\_\_ where we are told the writer is talking about a \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

We can find three major divisions in Romans:

(1) The first \_\_\_\_\_ chapters deal with a righteousness God has revealed.

- It must be \_\_\_\_\_.
- It also must be \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) Chapters \_\_\_\_\_ deal with how the righteousness of God was \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) Chapters 12–16 deal with how the righteousness of God is \_\_\_\_\_ in one’s life.

At the point we pick up chapter 12, Paul is saying, “On the \_\_\_\_\_ of what God has done for you, I want you to do something.” What is it he wants his readers to do?

- \_\_\_\_\_ our bodies.

NOTES on the term, "present":

NOTES

—Its use in Luke \_\_\_\_\_:

—Its use in Romans \_\_\_\_\_:

—Illustration: A surgeon's \_\_\_\_\_:

—Its use in Ephesians \_\_\_\_\_:

—Its use in Colossians \_\_\_\_\_:

We can notice three things about the sacrifice in  
Romans 12:1-2:

(1)

(2)

(3)

CORRELATION:

Romans 8:29: We are predestined to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the image of Jesus Christ.

—Illustration:

—Paraphrase: “Don’t let the world \_\_\_\_\_ you into its \_\_\_\_\_.”

CONTRAST:

We discover our option by noticing the little word, \_\_\_\_\_.

We should be \_\_\_\_\_. How? From \_\_\_\_\_, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your mind.

CONSULTATION:

NOTES on “transform” and “renewing”:

Their meanings summarized:

NOTES on “prove”:

There are three things we will prove about the will of God:

(1)

(2)

(3)

CONCLUSION:

My understanding of this verse:

[END OF VIDEO SESSION FOUR]

NOTES

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. Summarize what you have learned from Romans 12:1-2 by paraphrasing it as though you were offering its advice to a struggling Christian friend in another city. Limit your summary to three sentences.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What additional insights did you immediately see in Romans 12:1-2 that were not covered in this lesson?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. To whom was this written (believers or unbelievers), and how do you know?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What can you discover about the term "renewing" by using any Bible study tools available to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Based on your interpretive study of Romans 12:1-2, how would you now present this passage to a class of 8-to-10-year olds? To a class of senior citizens? Briefly write out each presentation.

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

NOTES

Using the same process as in this lesson—with roughly the same brevity—do an interpretive study of the following passages? (Use any of the tools previously discussed.)

1. Ephesians 2:8-9
2. Galatians 5:22-23
3. 1 Corinthians 2:14–3:3
4. Hebrews 12:1-2

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Continue the above exercise for the passages below, and summarize each in such a way that you could present your findings to a group or class.

1. Matthew 28:18-20
2. Esther 4:15-17
3. Proverbs 3:5-6
4. 1 John 2:3-6
5. 2 Timothy 2:1-2

## Session Five

*Interpretation: Matthew 19:16-27***Preparing for the Book*****STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- “Our reading of the gospel story can be and should be an act of personal communion with the living God.”  
—*William Temple*
- “The point of having an open mind, like having an open mouth, is to close it on something solid.”  
—*Gilbert Chesterton*
- “The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”  
—*Psalms 119:72*

***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “Nothing that is God’s is obtainable by money.”  
—*Tertullian*
- “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”  
—*Matthew 6:19-21*
- “Satan now is wiser than of yore, and tempts by making rich, not making poor.”  
—*Alexander Pope*
- “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”  
—*1 Timothy 6:17*



### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

NOTES

How have you been doing in keeping your daily appointment with the Lord? Not too well? Better than you expected? Barely holding your own? Haven't even begun?

Wherever you are right now in your adventure of Bible study, the best is yet ahead of you! In this lesson we again apply the principles of observation and interpretation as we've learned them thus far, and again you'll see that you are probably better equipped for Bible study than you might have thought. Putting these methods of Bible study into consistent practice may have already had a telling effect in your life—and that is only the beginning.

Before we launch into this lesson, take a personal inventory and list some of the changes you've seen in your life since you began this series. Thank God for each one, and ask Him to make them as permanent as your zeal for His Word. Finally, consider sharing some of these dynamic changes with a close Christian friend, or even your pastor, so a brother or sister in the faith can celebrate with you.

## Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION FIVE]

**Involvement in the Process:** *Matthew 19:16-27*

All types of religious \_\_\_\_\_ have been based on this passage.

Three illustrations:

(1) Some say:

(2) Legalists teach:

(3) The third group says:

**Key terms and observations relating to the young man:**

“\_\_\_\_\_ life”

“what \_\_\_\_\_ thing can I do?”

“\_\_\_\_\_” shows contrast

The young man used repeated \_\_\_\_\_

**Christ's method of dealing with the young man:**

NOTES

Key expression:

He was talking about something that was \_\_\_\_\_.

**An overview of the episode with the young man:**

It can be divided into two paragraphs:

(1) Verses 16-22 deal with the \_\_\_\_\_ ruler.

(2) Verses 23-26 deal with the \_\_\_\_\_ disciples.

**Exposing the problem of the young man:**

He is told that if he wants to enter into life, he must \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

The natural question is: "\_\_\_\_\_?"

All the laws Jesus mentions relate to one's relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_!

The Lord adds: "  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

Moreover, the commandments are not in their Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_.

It was very significant that Jesus did *not* quote the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment:

**The four mistakes of the young man:**

(1) Concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_:

(2) Concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_:

(3) Concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_:

(4) Concerning his \_\_\_\_\_ away \_\_\_\_\_:

When he went away sadly, he left his only \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

[END OF VIDEO SESSION FIVE]

## Working in the Book

NOTES

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. What mistakes do you think the young man made in his approach to Jesus? Why did he do it this way?
  
2. How do you think this man's position in life affected his understanding of salvation? What in the text supports your opinion?
  
3. Why do you think Jesus answered him in the way He did? Do you think Jesus was intentionally putting salvation beyond this person's grasp? Why or why not?
  
4. What other key words can you observe in the text, besides those dealt with in the lesson? Write a brief definition for each one, based on research using a concordance and any other tools you have available to you.
  
5. Can you draw a modern parallel to each of the four mistakes this person made? Write out a brief scenario illustrating each one from our contemporary culture.

**LEVEL TWO: For those who want more**

In this lesson, observations and conclusions were summarized in an organized way (in this case, a four-point statement). Having studied each of the verses below, how would you summarize your findings in a similar—organized and memorable—way?

1. Ephesians 2:8-9
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Galatians 5:22-23
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Hebrews 12:1-2

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Using Christ's encounter with the rich young man as a model, study and analyze His meeting with the woman at the well (John 4:7-30), then compare the two. For example:

1. How was her approach similar to or different from his?

2. How did Jesus address her problem? What was it?

3. How did she answer Jesus?

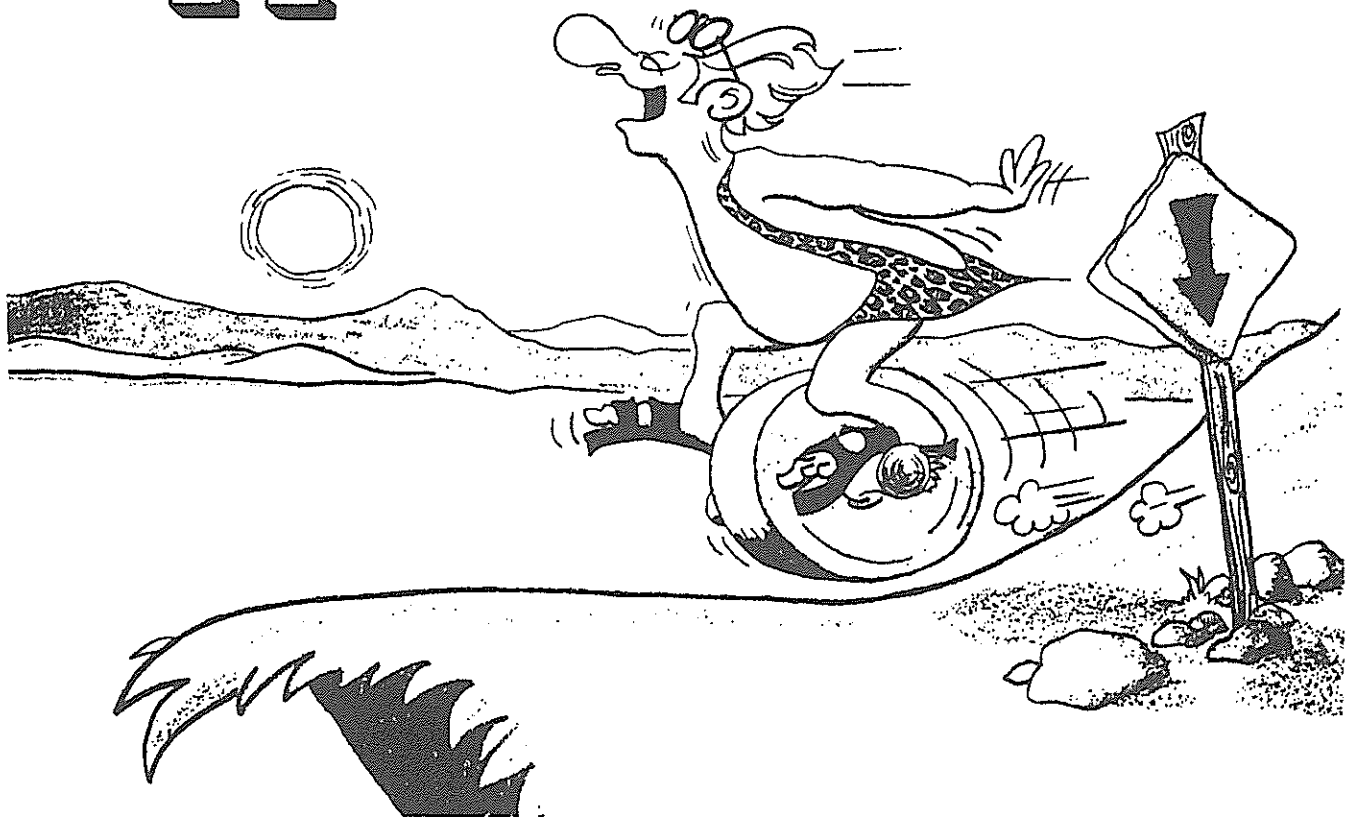
4. How did her response to Him compare with the young man's?

5. How does the outcome of each episode differ from the other?

NOTES



# Application



***How Does It Work?***

## Session One

*Application: Putting Legs on Our Learning***Preparing for the Book*****STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

—*Philippians 1:6*

- “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

—*Luke 9:62*

- “Every revelation of God is a demand, and the way to knowledge of God is by obedience.”

—*William Temple*

- “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord.”

—*Isaiah 55:8*

***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “A man’s heart is right when he wills what God wills.”

—*Thomas Aquinas*

- “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

—*1 Samuel 15:22*

- “No book will make you grow like the Bible.”

—*George Sweeting*

- “The question is not, ‘How much may I indulge in and still be saved?’ God forbid! I must rather ask, ‘What about Christ’s will and the example I set for my fellow Christians?’”

—*Robert Cook*

### **STEP THREE: Open Book**

As we have already seen, it is impossible to come to the Scriptures diligently and intelligently without running head-on to our need for application. As Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Before moving into the crucial step of application, you would do well to pause for a time of review and reflection before the Lord. Are you indeed ready from Him to cut deeply into your own life, to lay bare the hidden places of the heart, and to do His work of convicting, convincing, and converting your mind in any and every area of life? The spirit of Bible study is a willing heart—and the fruit of Bible study is a changed life.

Once you are ready to move ahead, there is one more suggestion you might consider. If you have not yet begun keeping a personal journal or notebook as we discussed earlier, perhaps this would be a good time to start. Nothing fancy, mind you—just a way of keeping track of the passages of Scripture you study and how God touches your life through them. Logging your spiritual progress day-by-day will not only reinforce what God is teaching you at the time, it will also give you a valuable resource to go back to in the future, whether for your personal benefit or to help those you are teaching or counseling.

Now—on to application!

### **Looking to the Book**

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION ONE]

**Introduction:**

Application asks and answers the question, "How does it \_\_\_\_\_?"

Observation plus interpretation without \_\_\_\_\_ equals \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity; it was written to \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

The ultimate goal of Bible study is not to do something to the Bible, but to allow the Bible to do something to \_\_\_\_\_.

Too often we come to God's Word to study it, to teach it, to preach it, to outline it, to do everything in the world with it except be changed by it.

Titus 1:1 tells us that "knowledge of the truth . . . is according to \_\_\_\_\_."

The question is not how many times have you been through the Bible, but how many times has the \_\_\_\_\_ been through \_\_\_\_\_!

Intellectually, we are stimulated by the truth; morally, we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the truth.

Our task as Christians is first to get into the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; then, second, to allow the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to get into \_\_\_\_\_.

**Four Substitutes for Application:**

*"What happens when we fail to apply the Scriptures?"*

**1. Substituting \_\_\_\_\_ for application.**

This is the mistake of substituting knowledge for \_\_\_\_\_. But to know and not to do is not to know at all.

In the study of God's Word, knowledge creates \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES

The ultimate illustration of interpretation without application comes from the lives of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They mastered the Old Testament Scriptures, but they were never \_\_\_\_\_ by them.

James 4:17 tells us, "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is \_\_\_\_\_."

***2. Substituting application in areas it's not needed for areas it is needed.***

Example: The subject of \_\_\_\_\_.

***3. Substituting rationalization for application.***

This means that when the Word of God convicts us, we \_\_\_\_\_ our position.

The older we get, the more \_\_\_\_\_ we become at rationalization.

Rationalization is the process of coming up with reasons why God's truth won't \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

***4. Substituting an emotional experience for a \_\_\_\_\_ decision.***

Being convicted by the truth is no substitute for being \_\_\_\_\_ by it.

James tells us the Word works only when it is

“\_\_\_\_\_”. The word he used means to  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The analogy: A \_\_\_\_\_.

Question: What will you do with the  
\_\_\_\_\_?

[END OF VIDEO SESSION ONE]

## **Working in the Book**

### ***LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

1. What do you think are the dangers of observation and interpretation without application?

2. Why do you think many people get into the Word of God without letting the Word of God get into them?

3. Give an example of substituting interpretation for application. Use a specific passage in your example.

4. In what areas do you think it is easiest to rationalize the Scriptures today? Why? How can we avoid this process in our own lives?

5. In what area(s) of Christian living do you think the church most often experiences conviction without change (e. g., purity of life, prayer, witnessing, worship, etc.)? Why do you think we repeat that process? What do you think is the answer to this problem?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

What do each of the passages below have to say about applying the Word of God to our lives? Summarize each in your own words.

1. Psalm 119:101

2. Proverbs 3:11-12

3. Jeremiah 15:16

4. Ephesians 5:15-16

5. 1 John 4:20-21

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

For each passage below, briefly explain what you think the process of diligent application would accomplish in the life of a believer.

1. Acts 1:6-8

2. Psalm 119:9, 11



3. Matthew 28:18-20

NOTES

4. James 3:13-14

5. Galatians 5:22-23

## Session Two

*Application: Perfecting the Process***Preparing for the Book*****STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- “We must observe that the knowledge of God which we are invited to cultivate is not that which, resting satisfied with empty speculation, only flutters in the brain; but a knowledge which will prove substantial and fruitful whenever it is duly perceived and rooted in the heart.”

—*John Calvin*

- “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

—*James 1:22*

- “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.”

—*1 Thessalonians 5:21*

- “Therefore gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit . . .”

—*1 Peter 1:13*

***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “Sow a thought, and you reap an act;  
Sow an act, and you reap a habit;  
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;  
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.”

—*Anonymous*

- “The man who is too old to learn was probably always too old to learn.”

—*Henry Haskins*

- “Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God; let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

—*Psalms 143:10*

### STEP THREE: *Open Book*

NOTES

If you've ever wondered what it is that determines the way you think, you might try this little experiment. First, list the number of hours each week you spend receiving input from the various media in our culture—and list them separately. For example, maybe you watch television for an average of two hours per day, everyday of the week. That's 10 hours for TV. Maybe 8 hours of reading. Five hours each week listening to the radio as you drive to work and back. Chalk up another hour or two for billboards and other advertising. Two hours per week of videos. And don't forget private conversations, meetings at work, PTA, whatever. Basically, list the number of hours each week for everything that does not offer biblical input—then total up the column.

Now—and don't fudge on this one—total up all the hours each week you spend receiving biblical input. That means Bible reading, Bible study, Bible teaching, or preaching. Then add those up.

How do the two totals compare? It's probably a pretty accurate representation of the amount of time you spend in spiritual conflict or defeat compared to the amount of time you experience spiritual victory. Why? Because what goes into our minds eventually comes out in our lives.

Obviously, we can't shut ourselves up in a shell or isolate ourselves from the world around us. In fact, that's not the goal of the Christian life at all. Our goal is to be *in* the world without being *of* the world; and the means to that goal is the programming God offers us in His Word. How can we increase that programming? By increasing the time we spend receiving input from His Word. That may sound like a formidable task, but when we begin to think creatively, it's not that tough at all. For example, Scripture written on 3x5 cards and taped to a dashboard, refrigerator, dresser mirror, or anyplace you're going to see it would be a good start. Another possibility is finding—and listening to—a Christian radio station that offers quality Bible study programming, like *Insights for Living* or *Thru the Bible*. Still another possibility is to buy audio tapes of the Bible and keep them in the car cassette or Walkman.

The idea is to saturate our minds with the Word of God, so the Word of God can saturate our lives.

### Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION TWO]

**Introduction:**

There is nothing the human heart resists more than \_\_\_\_\_.

Change is the basic element of Christian \_\_\_\_\_.

Spiritual growth is a \_\_\_\_\_ to change.

**Preview of the Process:**

We are going to examine a four-step process of application that will include learning:

(1) To \_\_\_\_\_

(2) To \_\_\_\_\_

(3) To \_\_\_\_\_

(4) To \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Learning to know**

This includes two things:

(A) I have to know the \_\_\_\_\_.

If the \_\_\_\_\_ is erroneous, the \_\_\_\_\_ will be erroneous.

If the \_\_\_\_\_ is correct, the \_\_\_\_\_ will be correct.

**Key idea:** Interpretation is \_\_\_\_\_; applications are \_\_\_\_\_.  
Again: "One interpretation; many applications."

The better I understand a passage, the better I will be able to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

(B) I have to know \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Timothy 4:16—"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching." The order is first to \_\_\_\_\_, then to the \_\_\_\_\_ of that truth to others.

Know yourself involves understanding your \_\_\_\_\_, and understanding your \_\_\_\_\_.

If you know your assets, it will develop your \_\_\_\_\_.

If you know your liabilities, they will develop your \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 12:3 shows that sometimes we have an exaggerated \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves.

## **2. Learning to relate**

We need to relate the Word of God to our \_\_\_\_\_.

Christianity is best understood as a series of new \_\_\_\_\_, according to 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Christian growth is not just a process; it is a \_\_\_\_\_ process.

Christianity is a series of new relationships:

- A new relationship to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A new relationship to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A new relationship to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A new relationship to the \_\_\_\_\_.

How the Word of God affects all our relationships:

- We run into passages that \_\_\_\_\_ our sin.
- We run into \_\_\_\_\_.
- We run into \_\_\_\_\_.
- We run into \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Question:** "What is there in my life that can be explained only in terms of the \_\_\_\_\_?"

[END OF VIDEO SESSION TWO]

## Working in the Book

NOTES

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. In your opinion, why do believers resist in their lives? How does this hinder the application of Scripture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the goal of God's work in our lives, according to Romans 8:29? What do you think this will involve?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Describe the relationship between accurate interpretation and correct application. How would you sum this up in one sentence?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What was Paul's point in 1 Timothy 4:16? What does this require of us in our study of the Scriptures?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, list at least ten areas of your life in which you have seen changes since trusting Christ as your Savior. Privately, list any others in which you believe you *need* to see change.

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

What areas of life and relationships are addressed in the following verses? What attitudes or actions are commanded? (Be as specific as possible.)

1. Ephesians 4:31-32

2. Proverbs 15:16

3. Titus 2:3-5

4. Ephesians 5:5

5. James 3:2-12



***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Carefully study each of the verses below, and then list at least three points of personal application based on your study.

1. Romans 8:28-32

2. James 3:13-18

3. Psalm 1:1-3

4. Genesis 22:1-12

5. Proverbs 19:1-2

## Session Three

*Application: The Word That Works***Preparing for the Book*****STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- “The Bible, God’s inerrant Word, is forever true whether or not anyone reads or believes it; but it becomes of value to you when you get a hold of it for yourself. Never leave a passage of Scripture until it has said something to *you*.”

—Robert A. Cook

- “Many are the plans in a man’s heart; but the counsel of the Lord, it will stand.”

—Proverbs 19:21

- “If a man’s Bible is coming apart, it is an indication that he himself is fairly well put together.”

—1 Thessalonians 5:21

***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”

—C. T. Studd

- “The church is so subnormal that if it ever got back to the New Testament normal it would seem to people to be abnormal.”

—Vance Havner

- “And . . . they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, ‘These men who have upset the world have come here also . . . !’

—Acts 17:6

### STEP THREE: Open Book

NOTES

By now you have found that the road to accurate interpretation can be easy—or it can be rather difficult. As we saw earlier, various tools can be a tremendous help to you in your study of God's Word. Therefore, if you really want to bolster your Bible study library, consider adding these helpful volumes:

- *Eerdman's Bible Handbook*—A Bible handbook moves book-by-book through the Bible, offering helpful background information, outlines, maps, and other reference material.
- *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*—This “dictionary” provides very useful information on key terms of the New Testament, moving from the English word back into the Greek of the New Testament.
- An *exhaustive* concordance, like *Strong's*, or *Young's*. These concordances list every occurrence of every biblical word, arranged in such a way that you can trace the same Greek or Hebrew word, regardless of how it is translated into English.

Of course, these tools require an initial investment; but the dividends they will continue to yield for years in your personal Bible study far outweigh the cost.

### Looking to the Book

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION THREE]

**Introduction:**

Most Christians are like poor photographs: They are over- \_\_\_\_\_ and under- \_\_\_\_\_.

We are in the process of developing a four-step model for applying the Scriptures:

- The **first** step is learning to know the \_\_\_\_\_.

- The **second** step is learning to \_\_\_\_\_.

Now we come to the crucial **third** step.

**2. Learning to \_\_\_\_\_**

Meditation is a rare experience in our society. Some passages that can help us understand meditation include:

(1) Joshua 1:8 — Notice the relationship between meditation and \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) Proverbs \_\_\_\_\_ — The basic principle here is that you become what you \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) Psalm 1:1-2 — One of the fastest ways to transform your life is through \_\_\_\_\_.

(4) Psalm 119:97 — This shows us that meditation involves using our \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: Meditation is always linked with \_\_\_\_\_. Memorization provides the mind with the fuel needed to make meditation profitable.

**Recommended:** The *Topical Memory System* by  
The Navigators.

NOTES

#### 4. Learning to \_\_\_\_\_

This is the ultimate goal of \_\_\_\_\_.

The task of Bible study is not to fatten  
\_\_\_\_\_, but to train \_\_\_\_\_ and  
equip \_\_\_\_\_!

ILLUSTRATION: Philippians 2:14

Anytime you study the Scriptures, ask, "Lord, how  
can this truth \_\_\_\_\_ my life in specific areas?"

Our hunger for the Word of God will be in direct  
proportion to our \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God.

#### *Helpful Questions for Application*

(1) Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ for me to  
follow?

(2) Are there any \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord  
wants me to avoid?

(3) Is there a \_\_\_\_\_ to claim?

(4) Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ for me to  
repeat?

(5) Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ to obey?

(6) Are there any \_\_\_\_\_ to meet?

(7) Is there any verse to \_\_\_\_\_?

(8) Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ to mark?

(9) Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ to face?

“How can we bring about change in society? Before the Word of God can bring change to my world, it must first bring change to \_\_\_\_\_.”

The Bible is not God’s Word because it \_\_\_\_\_; it \_\_\_\_\_ because it is God’s Word!

[END OF VIDEO SESSION THREE]

## Working in the Book

NOTES

### ***LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started***

1. Contrast the Bible's concept of meditation with the world's concept. What is the main difference?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What would be Joshua's key to success, according to Joshua 1:8? What response did this process require of Joshua? What does this reveal about the process of meditation on Scripture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Describe the relationship between meditation and godliness in light of Psalm 1:1-2. What attitude toward God's Word does this passage describe? How do you think he arrived at this attitude?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In regard to spending time meditating in the Scriptures, what obstacles do you personally face? What solutions can you find to these obstacles?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Relate 1 John 1:6-7 to our need to *practice* application of the Bible in our lives. What is our only other option?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

1. Using a concordance, trace the word "meditation" throughout the Scriptures and add your own insights to what you have learned in this lesson.
  
2. Describe the relationship between memorization and meditation, and support your ideas from Scripture.
  
3. Thoroughly search Psalm 119 and list as many benefits of meditation as you can find.
  
4. Find at least five passages that emphasize the need to practice the application of Scripture.
  
5. Spend some time meditating on Ephesians 5:15-16, then list no fewer than six ways in which you can practice this advice in your own life.



### ***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

NOTES

Carefully study Philippians 2:1-18, then do the following:

1. List as many direct commands from this passage as you can find. Summarize each in a one- to three-word statement.
2. For each command, briefly summarize the rationale, the reason, or the resource for carrying that out (according to the context in Philippians 2).
3. For each command summarize what you think would be the most common objection made by someone who needs to practice its application in his or her life.
4. Going back to question #2 as a resource, answer the objections for each point of application.
5. For each command, give at least two examples of practical ways in which it could be applied in your own life.

Session Four  
*Application: Matthew 5:13-16*

## Preparing for the Book

### *STEP ONE: Open Mind*

- “One of the greatest teachers of all time, Pythagoras, demanded that every night his pupils examine themselves on their progress that day. They were to ask themselves these questions:

- How did I succeed in my studies today?

- Could I have learned more?

- Is there something I neglected?

As a result, all his students became eminent for their learning.”

—Arthur Tonne

- “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”

—*Psalms 139:23-24*

- “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.”

—*John 14:23*

- “A good example is far better than a good precept.”

—*D. L. Moody*

### *STEP TWO: Open Heart*

- “Give me one hundred men who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I will shake the world.”

—*John Wesley*

- “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

—*James 4:7*

- “I find that doing the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about His plans.”

—*George MacDonald*

- “Thy will be done.”

—*Matthew 26:42*

### ***STEP THREE: Open Book***

By now we have gleaned enough information to qualify as “equipped” for effective Bible study. All the equipment in the world, however, will do us no good at all unless we put that equipment to work. In this lesson, we will apply the entire process to a passage of Scripture in much the same way that an individual could approach a passage during a time of daily devotions.

But before we begin to work through Matthew 5:13-16 to use it as an example of the process of application, it would be best if you personally could spend some time in the steps of observation and interpretation. As we have seen earlier, the better and more accurate our *observations* are, the better and more accurate our *interpretation* will be. In the same way, the better and more accurate our *interpretation* is, the better and more relevant our *applications* will be. In other words, our greatest guard against the *misapplication* of Scripture will be our diligence and accuracy during the first two steps of Bible study.

Keep that in mind as you notice the close relationship between what is going on in the text—and what God wants to do in your life!

### **Looking to the Book**

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION FOUR]

**Introduction:**

To begin studying Matthew 5:13-16, we first need to place it in its \_\_\_\_\_.

This section of Scripture is a part of what is called the \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Notes on Matthew 5:13-16:**

Verses 13-16, which contain two metaphors, are preceded by \_\_\_\_\_ beatitudes.

There is a \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ relationships between the two. Jesus is teaching that your \_\_\_\_\_ determine your \_\_\_\_\_; that “being” is more important than “\_\_\_\_\_.”

God is into character, not \_\_\_\_\_. If you want to make a \_\_\_\_\_, you have to be \_\_\_\_\_.

The two metaphors in this passage are:

(1) “You are \_\_\_\_\_.”

(2) “You are \_\_\_\_\_.”

You are salt to \_\_\_\_\_; you are light to \_\_\_\_\_.

It is possible for salt and light to be \_\_\_\_\_ in their basic purposes.

If salt loses its saltiness, it is worthless. This is not talking about salvation, but \_\_\_\_\_.

**Characteristics of salt:**

(1) Salt is a \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) Salt improves \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) Salt creates \_\_\_\_\_.

**Illustrations of light;**

(1) A city on a \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) A \_\_\_\_\_ under a basket.

We are to let our light shine before men in such a way that they see our good works and praise \_\_\_\_\_.

**Applications:**

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

The great message of Matthew 5:13-16 is that God left us on earth in order that we might \_\_\_\_\_ the society around us, not run from it. God's method is always to take a clean person and drop them in the middle of a corrupt society to demonstrate the power of His grace!

[END OF VIDEO SESSION FOUR]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. What observations concerning light and salt can you come up with that were not discussed in this lesson? What do you think those mean to this text, and how do they affect your application of it?

2. In light of this passage, what importance did Jesus place on the quality of a person's testimony? How does this compare or contrast with popular Christian thought today concerning personal rights, freedoms, and expression?

3. In what ways do you think some believers hide their lamp under a basket? In what ways do you do the same? How might you go about changing the level of your own visibility as a Christian?

4. What are the characteristics of salt that has lost its saltiness? What parallels can you draw between these characteristics and a Christian who has lost his or her vibrant testimony for Christ?

5. What specific changes do you plan for yourself based on this passage? How do you plan to see them come about?

**LEVEL TWO: For those who want more**

NOTES

By studying the following verses, find at least five specific points of application relating to the subject(s) listed for each one:

1. Philippians 4:10-13 — Personal and family finances (including teaching your children about money).

2. Ephesians 5:22-33 — Marriage relationships or goals for the future.

3. Acts 8:25-40 — Availability to God, witnessing, missions.

4. Revelation 2:1-7 — Worship, church life.

5. Genesis 27:30-46 — Personal integrity, honesty, zeal for God.

**LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation**

Carefully study Colossians 3:1-17, then answer the following:

1. Upon what foundation are Paul's points of application built? How would you find out more about that concept? How would you reword this concept as an introduction to the points of application that follow?
2. Classify all the admonitions and commands in this passage into two or more broad categories that would encompass all of them. How would you title each category?
3. How many different statements of application *in the text* can you find? How does each of these relate back to the foundation statement you made in question no. 1?
4. How does this passage relate to what preceded it? How does it relate to what follows? How much farther in the Book of Colossians is this thought carried through to application?
5. Can you locate a summary statement that would condense this entire section into one sentence? What points of *contemporary* application can you make based on that statement?



## Session Five

NOTES

### *Application: Building from the Ground Up*

## **Preparing for the Book**

### ***STEP ONE: Open Mind***

- Abraham Lincoln used to remark that he could get any number of men who were “willing to shed their last drop of blood,” but he found it difficult to find men who were willing to shed their first drop to make a beginning. Don’t talk about what you *will* do for God, or how you *will* commit yourself to studying the Scriptures. Just begin now with a good start.

—Anonymous

- “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”

—Acts 17:11

- “Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul observes them.”

—Psalm 119:129

- “For the word of the Lord is upright; and all His work is done in faithfulness.”

—Psalm 33:4

### ***STEP TWO: Open Heart***

- “Personally I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.”

—Winston Churchill

- “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

—1 John 5:3

- “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

—Isaiah 40:8

**STEP THREE: Open Book**

One of the most exciting aspects of Bible study is that it is something we never finish. We never exhaust our resources, never run out of material, never learn everything there is to know about God's Word. And we can never get "too good" at it!

As we move toward the conclusion of this series, consider these three suggestions as ways to further enhance your skills as well as your enthusiasm in Bible study.

(1) Never stop building your Bible study library. There is a wealth of quality material available to help you in your study of God's Word, and almost any Christian bookstore manager would be happy to help you find the tools that are best for you. A good place to start would be the expanded book version of *Living By The Book*, published by Moody Press.

(2) Make personal Bible study a personal hobby. Paul Harvey once said, "Take your hobby, make it your job, and you'll never work a day in your life!" While most of us can't make a career out of Bible study, we can make a hobby out of it and avoid the misconception that Bible study is drudgery or a tedious bore! Set aside the *best* of your free time for it.

(3) Keep the results of your study in God's Word. In order to know where you've been—and to apply some of the suggestions offered in the lesson that follows—you may have to start a Bible study filing system. Notice—that's *filing* system, not *piling* system! Nothing is more rewarding than being able to retrieve your work in God's Word, right when you need it most.

Above all else, keep at it! By now you know beyond any shadow of a doubt that personal Bible study is a life-changing habit. And hopefully, you'll never be the same for having discovered it!

**Looking to the Book**

[BEGIN VIDEO SESSION FIVE]

**Introduction:**

Too many Christians in our churches are listening, but they are not \_\_\_\_\_. They are spectators, but they are not \_\_\_\_\_. They are \_\_\_\_\_, but they are not participating.

In this series we have studied a process of Bible study that includes three crucial steps:

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_:  
"What do I \_\_\_\_\_?"
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_:  
"What does it \_\_\_\_\_?"
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_:  
"How does it \_\_\_\_\_?"

Now we need to discover, "How can I make \_\_\_\_\_ what I have learned in this course?"

**Three Suggestions:**

*First, begin with a personal Bible study*  
\_\_\_\_\_.

This will involve four things:

- (1) Determine your \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) Establish your \_\_\_\_\_.
- (3) Develop your \_\_\_\_\_.

(4) Employ the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.

Possibilities and suggestions:

*Second, form a small \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ group.*

Start with what you've \_\_\_\_\_.

Benefits:

(1) It allows \_\_\_\_\_ and involvement.

(2) It provides the value of great  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(3) It is less \_\_\_\_\_.

Suggestions:

Don't be afraid of someone who is going to ask  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*Third, share the \_\_\_\_\_ of your Bible study with others.*

NOTES

There are two ways to do this:

(1) You can share it by \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) You can share it by \_\_\_\_\_ it.

People are weary of words—but the are starving for \_\_\_\_\_!

[END OF VIDEO SESSION FIVE]

## Working in the Book

### *LEVEL ONE: Let's Get Started*

1. What do you think are some differences between listening to the Scriptures being preached and actually learning them for yourself?

2. Why is it important to develop your own Bible study program at this point? What might keep you from doing that?

3. How can you apply each of the following points to your own Bible study program (be as specific as possible)?

(a) Determine your objectives:

(b) Establish your priorities:

(c) Develop your schedule:

(d) Employ the fruit of discipline:

4. What are the three ways you can make Bible Study Methods a permanent part of your life? Which of those three might be the most difficult for you? How can you overcome that difficulty?

***LEVEL TWO: For those who want more***

Using a personal calendar, outline a plan for studying the Book of James over the course of one month. Set aside time for reading the book uninterrupted several times, for studying it by paragraphs, and for carrying out each step of the Bible study process. Finally, make yourself accountable to someone else for getting through your study—ideally by sharing the results of your study with them!

***LEVEL THREE: Building beyond the foundation***

Take two months to study the book of 1 John, with a view to teaching a small Bible study, a Sunday school class, or your family the book when you are finished. If possible, prepare several "handouts" that you can give to your group that will help them discover its content and retain their findings. Add to your file any charts, maps, or other material that will help you communicate 1 John to future groups of eager Bible students.



1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the members of the committee who have been appointed to the various sub-committees. The names are listed in alphabetical order of the last name.





