

Reading the Bible for Transformation- Group Questions

Series: Getting to Know the Book That Knows Me / Sandra Giet, February 5, 2017

The key to reading the Bible for transformation is asking good questions. The more you ask, the more you'll get out of what you are studying. This week we'll look at how to study a passage of the Bible by asking questions based on observation (what does it say?), interpretation (what does it mean?), and application (what will I do about it?).

Connecting Question: In celebration of this week's Super Bowl event, what is one of your favorite spectator sports? What do you like about it?
If you don't have one, what is one of your favorite personal activities?

DISCUSSION:

Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17 together

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (NIV)

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Each of you take a moment to reread the passage yourself.

- As you're reading, ask yourself, "What does it say?"
- Ask "Who, What, Where, Why and How" questions of the text.
- It's important at this point to simply determine what it says and not to worry about what it means.
- Write down your observations from the passage and share them with the group.

1. Interpretation: What does it mean?

Now we're going to look at what this passage means. One way to do this is to read and compare in different translations.

- Read the passage out loud from different versions that some of you may have or from a website like www.biblegateway.com to help expand your understanding.
- Make a list of what God is showing you based on your reading.
- **Original Intent:** What is the book of 2 Timothy about? Who wrote it? Who was it written to? What are some of the themes and concerns of this book?
- **Cultural Context:** Are there any cultural issues that need to be considered, researched or taken into account? If someone has a study bible read the notes for this passage.

Scriptural Context: What other verses explain it?

This step has us seek greater clarity by looking at what other Bible passages say about our scripture. What more do we learn about the people, events, words, concepts or characteristics found in the passage?

- Read the verses surrounding the passage. How do these increase your understanding?
- Each of you look up something from this passage in the concordance in the back of your Bible or using a keyword search on a site like biblegateway.com. What did you learn that helped you better understand the passage? What is this chapter about?

Bible Study Tools: Accurate Translation, Concordance, Bible Dictionary, Handbook, Commentaries, Study Bible

2. Application: What will I do about it?

Here we are going to figure out how to apply this scripture in our lives, using the acrostic: S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. Which questions is God leading you to focus on this week?

- There are nine useful questions to ask yourself about a passage, given in this acrostic:
 - S – Is there a sin to confess?
 - P – Is there a promise to claim?
 - A – Is there an attitude to change?
 - C – Is there a command to obey?
 - E – Is there an example to follow?
 - P – Is there a prayer to pray?
 - E – Is there an error to avoid?
 - T – Is there a truth to believe?
 - S – Is there something to praise God for?

Ministry: Close with prayer for prayer requests and ministry needs.