

My Bible Study Tool Bag #5 Application

Review:

Step One - Observation: What does the passage say?

Step Two - Interpretation: What did the passage mean to the original audience?

Step Three - Application: What does the passage mean to me?

Example: Should we move to Phoenix? Compare Hosea 13:5 vs. John 6:49

The Purpose for Studying the Bible:

Remember: "The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity; it was written to transform your life. First, we must get into the word of God for ourselves. But then we must allow that word to get into us, to make a permanent difference in our character and conduct."

(Many thanks to Howard Hendricks and his book *Living by the Book* from which we get the notes for this study.)

Application (A volitional change, not an emotional reaction)

James 1:21 "Therefore get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

1. Is there an example for me to follow?

Compassionate prayer for the evil influencers-Abraham in Genesis 18

Patience toward the weak or ineffectual- Jesus with Peter in Matthew 18:21-22

2. Is there a sin to avoid?

Consider Eph. 5

3. Is there a promise to claim?

Be careful to claim only the blessings that are yours.

Consider Ex. 19:4-6

4. Is there a prayer to repeat?

Consider David's prayer of confession (Ps. 51), Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving (I

Samuel 2:1-10), Paul's prayer for the Ephesians (our prayer for loved ones) in Eph. 3:14-21, and a prayer for our children in Col. 1:9-12.

5. Is there a command to obey?

Note: there are some 54 commands in the book of James alone.

6. Is there a condition to meet?
Watch for the “if/then” clauses. Example: John 15:7
7. Is there a verse to memorize?
The longer the passage the better. Consider memorizing Ps. 103, 139, John 14, Isa. 53.

The Four Steps in Application

1. Know
If you want to apply the Bible, you need to know two things:
 - A. Know the text (remember, there are many applications, but only one interpretation)
 - B. Know yourself!
“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers” (I Tim. 4:16-17).

Consider taking a Spiritual Inventory. What are your spiritual strengths? (Rom. 12:3).
Where are your areas of weakness? (Heb. 12:1-2)
2. Review
Review your habits and behaviors in these five areas: Personal life, family life, church life, work, and community. Consider having someone close to you review you as well.

A consistent study of God’s Word will provide you a new relationship with the Lord, yourself, other people and the enemy.
3. Meditate
Consider Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-2. We need to weave the scriptures into our everyday life. Memorizing scripture makes meditating so much more profitable.
4. Practice
Practice living out the truth.
Phil. 1:27 “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”
Phil. 2:14 “Do everything without complaining or arguing....”
Phil. 3: 14 “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
Phil. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always and I will say it again, Rejoice!”

Two Practical Tips:

The Personal Paraphrase

Learn to write out a personal paraphrase. For each verse you are studying, write out the verse in your own words. It will help the passage make more sense to you.

Example: I Tim. 1:1 (NIV)

“Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope.”

Personal Paraphrase

Paul, a proclaimer of Jesus Christ, obeying the instructions of God who is the One who saves us, and of Jesus Christ who is our hope....

The Personal Application

Learn to write out your personal application for each verse you are studying.

Here is one possible application from I Tim. 1:1

Just like Paul, I need to recognize that I am tasked with being Christ’s ambassador, authorized and sent out with a divine message. I can only be effective in my mission if I am aware of my status as a divinely appointed witness.

Some suggestions for your own Bible Study Tools:

10. *Utilize the Illuminated Scripture Journal* by Crossway

There is plenty of room to write out your personal paraphrase and your personal application.

11. *The Story* (The Bible as one continuous story of God and His People (from the NIV) by Zondervan

12. *Topical Memory System* by the Navigators

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

1. What examples might we follow from the book of Jonah, Psalm. 32, King Hezekiah (II Chron. 29-30) or the woman in Proverbs 31?
2. What promises might we claim from Psalm 62 or Habakkuk 3?
3. What are the conditions to meet in Prov. 9:12 or II Chron. 7:14?
4. Write out a paraphrase for Psalm 130 or Ecclesiastes. 3:1-8 or Dan. 3:16-18.
5. Write out a personal application for Psalm 130, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 or Dan. 3:16-18.