



A SPOON FULL OF SUGAR

Bringing Application to
Bible Teaching

Monday, May 23 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

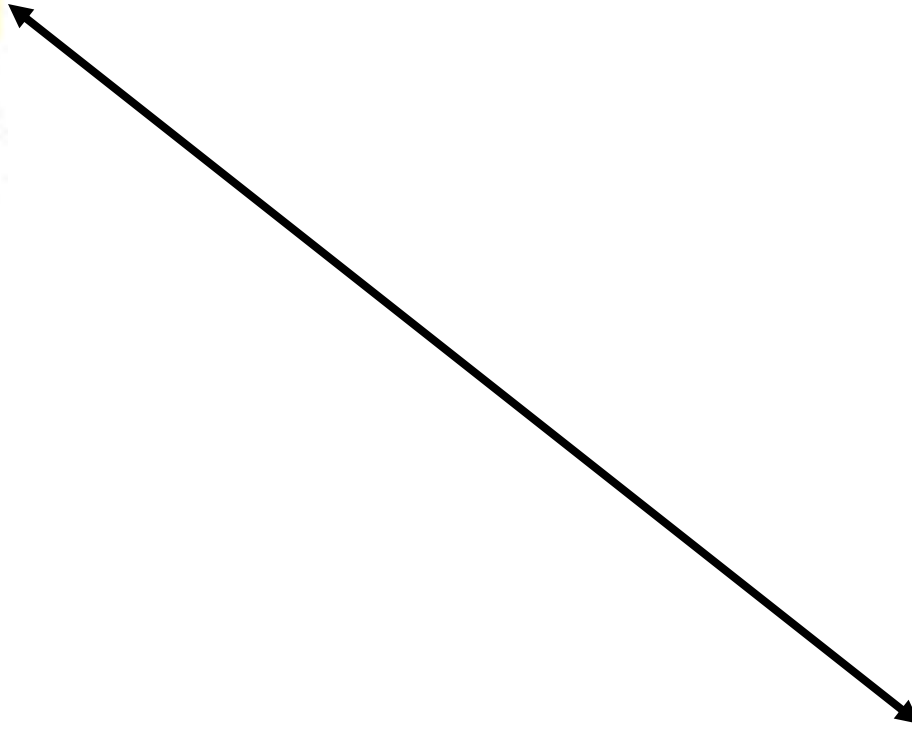
DON DEN HARTOG, GRACE BIBLE CHURCH, MCPHERSON, KS

**“A spoonful of sugar helps the
medicine go down...”**





From Abstract



to **Impact!**

Making Disciples the Old-Fashioned Way

Teaching With Examples

Goal of Biblical Study

Life Transformation

***“Him we preach, warning every man
and teaching every man in all wisdom,
that we may present every man
perfect (mature) in Christ Jesus.”***

Colossians 1:28

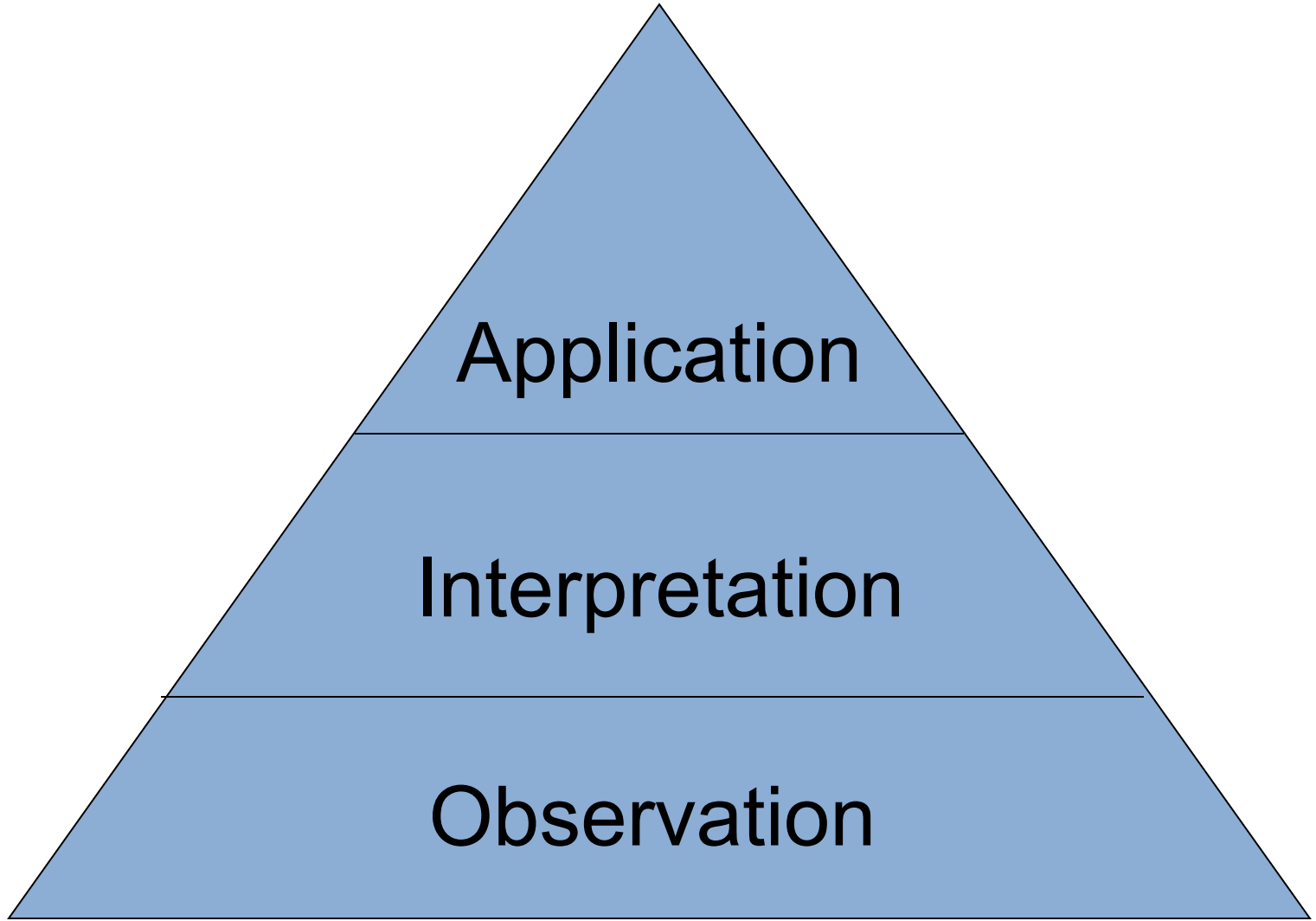
Today's Seminar

The importance of using real-life and relevant examples to demonstrate biblical truth.

Analogy vs Example

- Analogy: A similarity in some respects between things that are otherwise dissimilar.
- Example: One serving as a pattern of a specific kind.

A similar case that constitutes a model.



Application

Interpretation

Observation

- “...it’s also possible...to spend a whole sermon making practical applications without rooting them in Scripture....For me, though, the greater danger lies in the opposite direction— spending too much time on explanation and not going far enough into application.”

--Haddon Robinson, *Making a Difference in Preaching*

**Jim Cymbala, Pastor
of the Brooklyn
Tabernacle**

**“The hardest part of
sermon preparation is
developing
applications.”**

***Pastors Conference,
The Cove, April 2022***



- James 1:22, 26-27
- ²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²⁶If anyone [£]among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. ²⁷Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- Matt. 28:19-20
- ¹⁹Go [£]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰*teaching them to observe (obey) all things that I have commanded you*; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”
Amen.

- 1 Tim. 6:3
- ³If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the *doctrine which accords with godliness*,
- Titus 1:1, 2:1
- ¹Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the *truth which accords with godliness*,
- ¹But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.

- 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- ¹⁶All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly *equipped for every good work*
- 2 Cor. 3:18
- ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being *transformed* into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- 1 John 1:5-10
- ⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Sitting At the Feet of Rabbi Jesus

--Ann Spangler & Lois Tverberg

- “The mission of a rabbi was to become a living example of what it means to apply God’s Word to one’s life. A disciple apprenticed himself to a rabbi because the rabbi had saturated his life with Scripture and had become a true follower of God. The disciple sought to study the text, not only of Scripture but of the rabbi’s life, for it was there that he would learn how to live out the Torah.”

Four Stages of the Discipleship of Jesus

Howard Hendricks, Dallas Theological Seminary 1978

- He did it.
- They saw Him do it.
- He did it with them.
- They did it.

“mimetes”(noun)=follower

- 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1
- Ephesians 5:1
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2:14
- Hebrews 6:12
- 1 Peter 3:13

“mimeomai” (verb)=to follow

- 2 Thessalonians 3:7,9
- Hebrews 13:7
- 3 John 11

- 1 Tim. 4:12, 16
- ¹²Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, [£]in spirit, in faith, in purity.
¹⁶Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

- 2 Tim. 3:10
- ¹⁰But you have *carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life*, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

- 1 Pet. 5:1
- ¹Elders who *are* among you, I exhort, who *am* a fellow-elder...but *being examples* to the flock...

Applicative Illustration

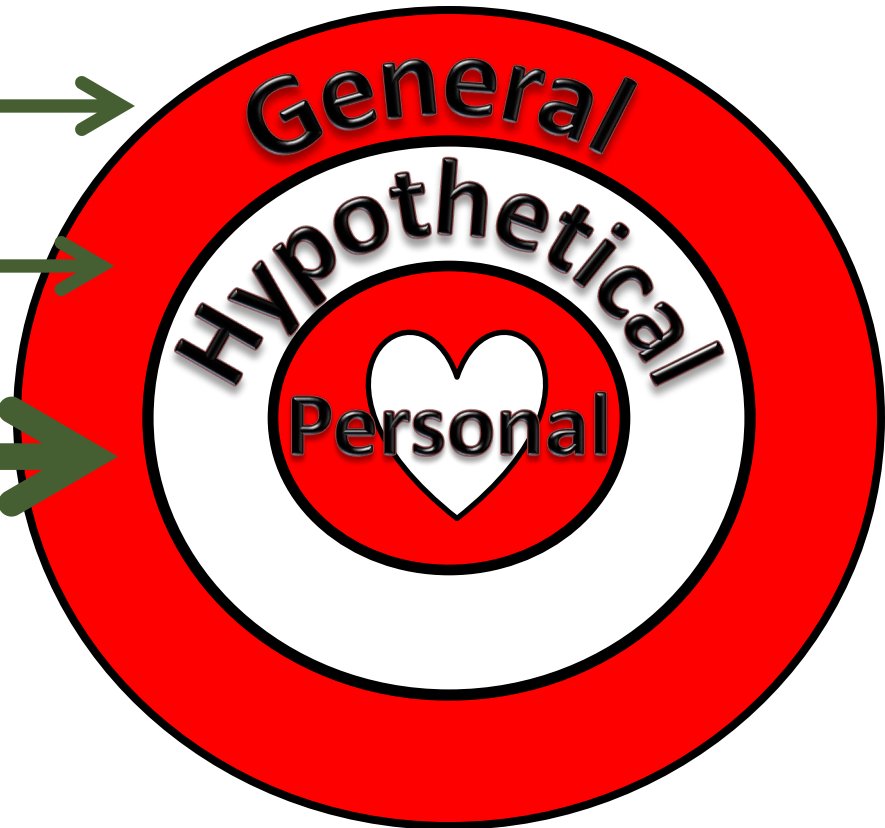
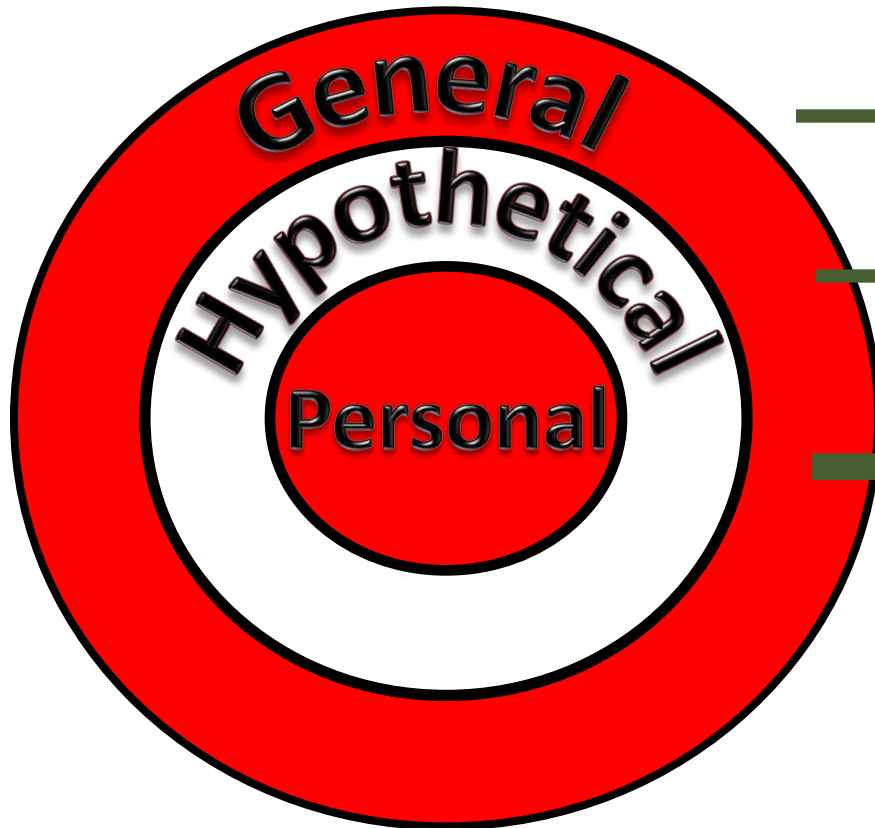
TEACHER

STUDENT

Non-Existent



Non-Existent



Dangers to Avoid

- Make sure your applications are within the realm of the intent of the biblical passage.
- Communicate examples to emulate, not rules to follow.
- Be accurate in your facts and sensitive to confidentiality.
- Be as specific as possible, but yet appropriate.

Example: Proverbs 14:4

“Where no oxen are, the trough is clean;
But much increase comes by the strength of an
ox.”

Levels of Application

Haddon Robinson, "The Heresy of Application"

- Necessary: Exact application intended by the author.
- Probable: A likely application in a other cultures and/or historical contexts.
- Possible: An application that sometimes is accurate, depending on variables.
- Improbable: An application that is very rarely within the boundaries of the author's intent.
- Impossible: An application that is outside the author's intent and impossible to consistently practice.

- 1 Cor. 4:15-17; 11:1
- ¹⁵For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you, imitate me. ¹⁷For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, *who will remind you of my ways in Christ*, as I teach everywhere in every church.
- *Imitate me*, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

Warning: Be Careful to...

- Not let your example/illustration overshadow the truth you are seeking to communicate.
- Understand that your application is only as accurate as your interpretation.
- Realize there is only one absolutely correct interpretation of any given communication, including the Bible.
- Handle accurately (cut straight) the Word of Truth. 2 Timothy 2:15