

*Exodus 4:10-12 But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup> Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." <sup>13</sup> But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."*

Was Moses a gifted speaker?

Did God use Him?

Did Moses grow in his knowledge of God?

Did Moses grow in Godliness?

Did Moses grow in his leadership?

Can you grow in your skill of studying the Bible?

Can you grow in your skill of delivering a Bible Study?

Can you grow in your spiritual leadership?

A "skilled person" is one who has an acquired ability, usually gained through experience and training.

- A person can become a skilled Bible study leader through deliberate learning, practice, and dedication—even if not naturally gifted with teaching or leadership abilities.
- Essential skills for leading a Bible study, such as biblical knowledge, communication, humility, integrity, and the ability to facilitate discussion, can be developed over time by faithfully preparing, engaging with others, and relying on prayer and God's guidance.
- Skillful leadership grows through training, feedback, and mentorship; natural talent may help, but it is not required.
- Biblical leaders like Joshua and Nehemiah sometimes started with few apparent gifts but grew into excellent leaders by relying on God, seeking wise advice, practicing courage, and persevering.
- Biblical qualifications for church or study leaders emphasize faith, character, purity, commitment, and a willingness to serve (such as being faithful, trustworthy, and devoted to Christ) over innate talent.
- A leader should be teachable, open to others' insights, and focused on spiritual growth rather than personal achievement

**Structural Diagram of a Text:** a phrase-by-phrase chart of the text in the exact word order of the translation you use. Its purpose is to show in graphic form the relationship of various ideas in the text.

- It is part of the inductive study of the text to help you observe the author's thoughts.
- You will see more clearly the main ideas, subject, structure, development and purpose of the text as they are supported from secondary ideas.
- Secondary ideas in the diagram provide vital information about the concepts they support.
- "Support" means that secondary ideas are helping explain and describe main ideas.
- If you are not sure about a phrase in scripture, you must ask the question, "What does this phrase tell about the lines above?"

**Step 1: Write the first independent clause as your starting point.** An independent clause expresses a complete thought without the aid of other phrases and contains at least a subject and verb. All text, however, do not begin with independent clauses.

**Step 2: Place supporting phrases, clauses, and words starting directly under the words they relate to.** "What does this phrase relate to?" will be your main question throughout the exercise.

Sometimes placement under the most appropriate word of the phrase above calls for an interpretive decision.

**Step 3: Line up any series of equal words, phrases or parallel thoughts vertically.** A series may include supporting ideas of various kinds that reveal different information about the subject.

**Step 4: Place connectives in brackets and set apart from the main ideas.** Setting them apart lets the phrase or clause stand alone and emphasizes how the connectives relate one idea to another.

**Step 5: Underline verbs and circle words carrying the main themes of the text.**

**Step 6: What are your immediate observations and their significance for the text's meaning?**

What is the overall message of the writer in this text? What are the smallest parts of the text that supports the overall message? Put aside your presuppositions and determine only what the text says.

**Observation - Seeing What Is There:** Be curious, suspend judgment, have an eye for details, desire to know the facts.

Step 1: Start with two columns on a sheet of paper.

Step 2: Left column put one phrase or word or entire verse, word for word.

Step 3: Right column record your observations from a look at the details of that word or phrase by asking these questions:

- What do we have here?
- What does it mean?
- What is its significance for us?

*Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Blessed is the man  
    who walks not  
        in the counsel  
            of the wicked  
nor stands  
    in the way  
        of sinners  
nor sits  
    in the seat of scoffers  
[but] his delight is in the law  
                    of the Lord  
[and] in His law  
    he meditates  
        day and night

Phrase/Word/Verse	Your Observations
Blessed is the man	There is a fulfillment of promised blessing There is a greatness of amount A person is meeting requirements
who walks not	What is walk? Manner of life? Figurative
In the counsel	Counsel is given by all Advice of sinners It comes from everybody
of the wicked	Wicked is ungodly?
nor stands	Stand is a position, not moving, relaxed, at home? Figurative
in the way	Normal traffic, hang out. Refuse to be in that place
of sinners	Those who love their sin and celebrate the sin. Where are they in my life?
nor sits	Looks like a progression of acceptance. Figurative.
in the seat of scoffers	Figurative
[but] his delight is in the law	Contrast Delight is a love and excitement Law? How does this apply in NT?
of the Lord	The Lord gave the law and He loves the law but Jesus fulfilled the law.
[and] in His law	What part of the law are to rejoice and delight in today?
he meditates	Is meditating reading? Memorizing. Thinking?
day and night	All the time. Let it always be on your heart and mind. What stops this from happening in my life?

*Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the*

*foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

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and Father  
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Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.