

Dwelling in God's Word Workshop

Week Two

Name:

Date:

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

What does Scripture say about itself? What does it promise us?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matthew 5:17-18

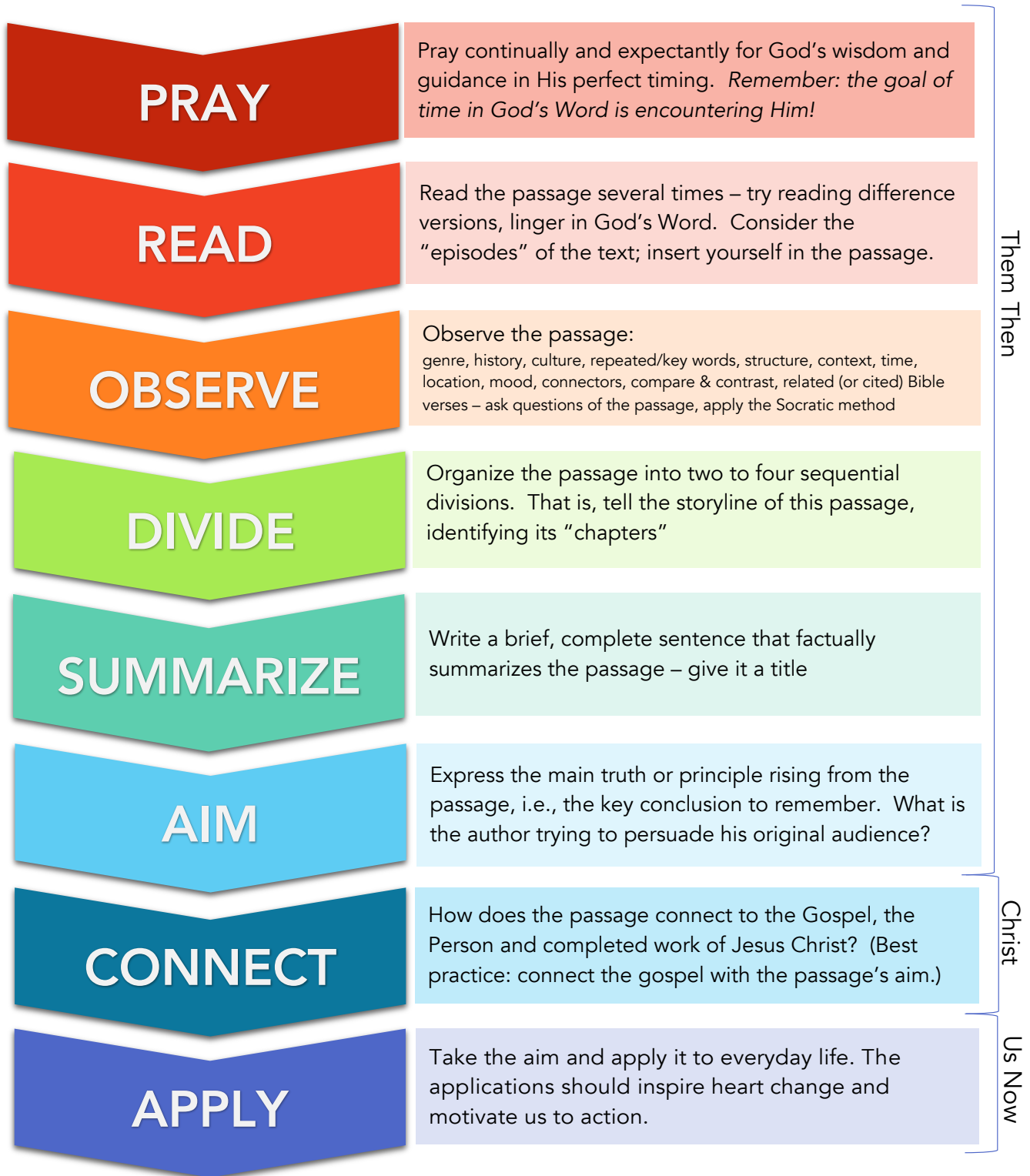
Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

What does it mean to dwell in God's Word?

How do we dwell in God's Word?

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

Analyzing Bible Passages



Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

PRAY

Pray continually and expectantly for God's wisdom and guidance in His perfect timing. *Remember: the goal of time in God's Word is encountering Him!*

Pray:

- *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.* Psalm 119:18
- Lord, help us to pray like the blind man begging by the roadside: *"Jesus, have mercy on me!"*
"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Luke 18:38,13
- Lord, help us to be DOERS of your word! We pray Lord for genuine change in our lives.
Would you allow the seeds from Scripture to bear real, noticeable fruit!
Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22
- Lord, open my eyes to Jesus Himself! The works of God stand as marvelous mountain ranges in the Bible, but the highest peak, and the most majestic vista, is the person of Jesus. Show us how this passage reveals more of Him!

READ

Read the passage several times – try reading difference versions, linger in God's Word. Consider the "episodes" of the text; insert yourself in the passage.

Read:

- suggestion: look at Blue Letter Bible or Bible Gateway
- also use a "real" Bible so you can easily see the whole passage and surrounding verses
- as you read, does something in the passage draw your attention or perplex you? Stop and pray, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom – this is part of dwelling!

Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the Rock (ESV)

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?"³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"⁴ So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah^[a] and Meribah,^[b] because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Initial thoughts:

Does anything in this familiar text "jump out at you" that you didn't notice before?

Do any questions come to mind?

Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the Rock (The Message)

17 ¹⁻² Directed by God, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim. And there wasn't a drop of water for the people to drink. The people took Moses to task: "Give us water to drink." But Moses said, "Why pester me? Why are you testing God?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, "Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?"

⁴ Moses cried out in prayer to God, "What can I do with these people? Any minute now they'll kill me!"

⁵⁻⁶ God said to Moses, "Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. I'm going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink."

⁶⁻⁷ Moses did what he said, with the elders of Israel right there watching. He named the place Massah (Testing-Place) and Meribah (Quarreling) because of the quarreling of the Israelites and because of their testing of God when they said, "Is God here with us, or not?"

Initial thoughts:

Does anything in this familiar text "jump out at you" that you didn't notice before?

Do any questions come to mind?

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

OBSERVE

Observe the passage:

genre, history, culture, repeated/key words, structure, context, time, location, mood, connectors, compare & contrast, related (or cited) Bible verses – ask questions of the passage, apply the Socratic method

The purpose of OBSERVE is to prayerfully analyze the passage, answering questions about the passage and considering “them then.” By doing this, we become very familiar with the text, letting it inform us as we dig into what it is saying. Remember, every word is important. As you study, consider the author's original intent.

Look at the *context* / setting of the passage:

What is the Biblical genre? (We analyze each genre differently.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE: factual retelling of real events – usually action

THE LAW: outlines God's commands to His covenant people

POETRY: written in verse form

WISDOM LITERATURE: reveals the collected wisdom of generations of godly people

PROPHECY: recounts visions of specific messages from God about the future

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE: describes what the end times will be like

THE GOSPELS: includes eyewitness testimonies about the life of Jesus

THE EPISTLES: written in the form of a letter

Where is this passage taking place?

When is this passage taking place?

Who is in the story?

Continue to look at the *context* / setting of the passage:

What is happening right before the passage?

Exodus 16

What is happening right after the passage?

Exodus 17:10-16

Look at the *content* of the passage:

Restate the entire passage, reducing the content to a ten to twenty entry list of words, phrases and/or sentences that capture the content (write the verse(s) next to the entry

Consider carefully:

- Ponder the content – what is it saying? Take special care to determine details about the passage
- What might this have meant to the original audience?
- What words are repeated or stressed or seem important?
- Be careful to focus on what it is saying and not what you THINK it says. (This is especially important when a passage is familiar.)
- Remember that God's Word has depth that has no bottom – it is like looking at facets of a beautiful jewel

Content: reduce the entire passage to a list of words, phrases and/or sentences that capture the content – write the verses next to the summary

Content: Exodus 17:1-7 Water From The Rock

Example given:

1a All Israel multitude journey from Seen according to mouth of Adonai

1b They dwelled in Rephidim but no water to drink

2a people argued with Moses – “give us water to drink”

2b

Observation Questions:

What questions does this passage raise for you?

What more would you like to know about it?

What do you want to ask God about this passage?

What was the author wanting his audience to know?

Observation Elements:

Biblical genre

History & culture

Context & location in Bible

Key words & definitions

Structure

Grammatical features

Mood

Connectors

Compare & contrast

Related (or cited) Bible passages

Observations:

Questions about the author's intent:

What is the mood?

What words or phrases seem important in this passage?

Are there any cited or related passages that come to mind?

(Hint: search for "Meribah" in a Bible app – what are the verses?)

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

DIVIDE

Organize the passage into two to four sequential divisions. That is, tell the storyline of this passage, identifying its "chapters"

- Reduce the content list to an even shorter list, dividing the passage into two to four sections that follow the sequence of the passage and belong together
- The organization of the content helps you remember the details and recognize the passage's progression.
- Where is a logical place to divide the passage? What are the chapters or episodes of the text?
- In a narrative, where are transitions of actions?
- Write a brief, grammatically correct sentence (with a subject and verb) to summarize each section of the passage.
- Try to include important words from the text.
- Stick to the facts. The sentence reports the factual content of the passage not your interpretation or conclusion.
- Include the verses after the sentence.

Divisions:

I.

II.

III.

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

SUMMARIZE

Write a brief, complete sentence that factually summarizes the passage – give it a title

- Write a single sentence of **ten** words or less that summarizes the facts of the passage.
- The sentence must have a subject and verb.
- Stick to the facts - the content of the passage, not your interpretation or conclusion.
- Incorporate your division sentences and reduce it to a concise summary.
- Start by writing a sentence that is too long and then refine it to ten words.
- Include details to identify this passage among similar passages in the Bible.

Subject Sentence:

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

AIM

Express the main truth or principle rising from the passage, i.e., the key conclusion to remember. What is the author trying to persuade his original audience?

- The aim captures the primary truth or principle the author is conveying, which is different from the facts stated by the summary sentence.
- The aim expresses the main truth taught throughout the passage.
- The aim must be doctrinally correct and universally true - in agreement with the teaching of the entire Bible (not taken out of context).
- The aim may be a truth about God or people - a biblical truth that leads you somewhere rather than summarizes facts.
- In the Exodus 17 passage, what do you think Moses wanted the people to learn?
- What do you think Moses was trying to persuade his original audience?

Aim:

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

CONNECT

How does the passage connect to the Gospel, the Person and completed work of Jesus Christ? (Best practice: connect the gospel with the passage's aim.)

Jesus teaches that all scripture points to Him:

- Remember that the Word is a Person –
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
- Jesus is the fulfilment of the Scriptures
 - *[Jesus] said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:25–27*
 - *"This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:44–45*

Connect to Gospel:

Dwelling In God's Word Workshop:

APPLY

Take the aim and apply it to everyday life. The applications should inspire heart change and motivate us to action.

APPLICATIONS - Motivating Change

Take the aim and put it into everyday life. The applications motivate to put the aim into action. They direct the main teaching of the passage into hearts and lives.

- Prepare at least one application per division.
- The goal is to transform the heart rather than merely change surface behavior.
- Balance applications that convict of wrong thinking with positive applications that encourage trust in and surrender to God.
- Balance applications that encourage evaluation of thinking and actions with applications that invite change in thinking and living (e.g., a right view of God, trust in Him, priorities etc.)
- Try to put yourself in the story
- What does it mean to you?

Applications:

I.

II.

III.