

# Observations and Questions

Ephesians Workshop Week 1 2/9/2020

**OBSERVATION** – what do I see?

- STEP 1: Mark up the passage**
- STEP 2: Write out observations for each verse**
- STEP 3: Research setting and context**
- STEP 4: Write out questions for interpretation**

**INTERPRETATION** – what does it mean?

- STEP 1: Answer your questions for interpretation**
- STEP 2: Biblical theological reflection, find Christ**
- STEP 3: Summarize the passage**
- STEP 4: Create a BIG idea**
- STEP 5: Come up with timeless truths based on your interpretation**

**APPLICATION** – how will I respond?

- STEP 1: Reflect – Pray and meditate over timeless truths, what stands out?**
- STEP 2: Respond – Come up with an action step**
- STEP 3: Recruit – get encouragement and accountability**

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**OBSERVATION: How to Make Good Observations**

**STEP 1: Mark up the passage**

**Tips**

- Print out with space to the right, space in between lines, and some form of initial organization.
- Circle important verbs.
- Underline important words/phrases.
  - Use a different style or color for repeated words, concepts, or phrases.
- Identify God, Christ, Spirit using symbols or colors.
  - Who are the main subjects? Is there a main actor/action?
- Box important connecting words (for, but, so that) & identify their purpose.

### **Try it out – Eph 1:3-14, Reasons for Praise**

#### **We are Chosen by God**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

#### **We are Redeemed in Christ**

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

#### **We are Sealed by the Spirit**

<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

## **STEP 2: Write out observations for each verse (to the side of passage)**

### **Answer Structure Questions:**

- What verbs are used to describe action in the passage? What is significant about these verbs?
- What is the tone of the passage?
- Are there any repeated words? Repeated phrases?
- Does the author make any comparisons? Draw any conclusions?
- Does the author raise any questions? Provide any answers?
- Does the author point out any cause and effect relationships?
- Is there any progression to the passage? In time? Actions? Geography?
- Does the passage have a climax?
- Does the author use any figures of speech?
- Is there a pivotal statement or word?
- What linking words are used? (for, but, so that, etc.) What ideas do they link?

### **Six things to Look For (Hendricks)**

#### **Things that are...**

- **Emphasized** (space, stated purpose, order)
- **Repeated** (terms, characters, OT quote)
- **Related** (Q &A, cause and effect)
- **Alike** (similes, metaphors, parallelism)
- **Unlike** (but, contrast)
- **True to life** (How does text explain reality, human experience?)

## **STEP 3: Research setting and context**

### **Setting and Context Questions:**

1. Who is the author or speaker?
2. Why was this book written? What was the occasion of the book?
3. What historic events surround this book? What was happening in the world at the time this was written?
4. Where was it written? Who were the original recipients? What do we know about them?
5. What literary form is being employed in this passage?
6. What is the overall message of this book, and how does this passage fit into that message?

7. What precedes this passage? What follows? How does this passage fit the immediate context?
8. Where does this passage/book fit into the overall context on what God is doing throughout the Bible – plan of God? Where do we see Christ?

**STEP 4: Write out questions for interpretation – questions that get at the meaning  
To Use for Writing Out Your Interpretation Questions**

**WHO** is...

- ...The author talking about?
- ...Accomplishing the action?
- ...Benefiting from it?

**WHAT** is the...

- ...Meaning of this word?
- ...Significance of the phrase?
- ...Implication of this statement?
- ...Meaning of this figure of speech?
- ...Author's flow of thought and tone?
- ...relationship between these phrases?

**WHY** did the author...

- ...Choose this word?
- ...Include this phrase or statement?
- ...Not include or talk about something?
- ...Connect these ideas?

**GROWTH PROJECT**

**Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10**

1. Mark up the passage
2. Write out observations (use structure questions and “what to look for”)
3. Try writing out questions for interpretation (use guiding questions)

**Ephesians 2:1-10****Observations**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.