

Questions, Interpretation, & Application

Ephesians Workshop, week 2 2/16/2020

OVERVIEW OF THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

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

OBSERVATION - what do I see?

Mark up the passage – a look at connectives in Ephesians

Connectives – words that connect two ideas. These show logical connections of the author.

Box important connecting words (for, but, so that) & identify their purpose.

- **Comparison** – “and, like, as, also, even so” (1:4, 4:2)
- **Purpose/result** – “that, so that, in order, to” (1:4, 1:12; 4:12)
- **Contrast** – “but, rather, yet, however” (2:4, 2:19)
- **Cause** – “because, since, for”
- **Explanation** – “for” (2:8, 10)
- **Condition** – “if, assuming that” (4:21)
- **Inference, logical conclusion** – “therefore, for this reason” (4:1, 4:25, 5:1)
- **Basis, foundation, plan** – “according to” (1:11)

INTERPRETATION - what does it mean?

What makes a good interpretation? What tips do you have on finding the meaning of a passage?

- When you think you are done observing, observe more!
- Seek the context first
- Observe the culture
- Refrain from asking, “what does this mean to me?”
- How does this fit within the entire Bible, in the story of Christ?
- How does it fit within the life of the author

Interpretation skill - writing good questions that help you interpret well.

- Chart of interpretive questions
- Try it out on Ephesians 2:1-10

How do you go about answering the questions that you write?

- Don't assume you know the answer right away, dig deeper.
- Check cross references
- Consult commentaries
- Work with others

APPLICATION - how will I respond?

What are misguided ways of applying a text?

What makes a good application of a Bible passage you just interpreted?

- Heart work versus just behavior modification
- Get at your motivations
- Let the passage inform your prayers
- Our lives are different even though the passage may be very familiar

How can I apply a passage in specific ways? How do I know this is how the Lord wants me to apply this passage right now?

Application Skill – list potential applications (Eph 4:1-16)

- List out as many application statements that you can think of. In other words, go through and jot down potential applications one could make.

Applications:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Growth Project

- Review the sermon and our notes today on Ephesians 4:1-16.
- Meditate and pray over Ephesians 4:1-16.
- Pray God gives you understanding of the passage and insight into applying it.
- Meditate on how you might apply the passage.
- Write out how you will apply this passage this week. Tell someone.