

How to Study the Bible
Grace Bible Fellowship Church – Winter 2020

TEACHING NOTES

Week 7: Bridging the Gap

March 1, 2020 – Consultation

Prayer: Open with praying Ephesians 1 / 3 prayers for group

Discussion: The Lord's Prayer ... With Answer



Review: OIA (see OIA Bookmark)

- Observe** - "What Does it Say?"
- Interpret** - "What Does it Mean?"
- Apply** - "How does it Work?"

- Graphic: "Calvin and Hobbes – Library book"



Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened. -Winston Churchill

And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust. -Matthew 21:44

Bridging the Gap between Interpretation and Application

- **HERE is where Commentaries are helpful.** Don't start with others thoughts, but do

Consult others at this point. Go to respected, godly men who have studied these passages in details - read what they say and re-read looking at their conclusions.

(Note: critical that you get good commentaries, and that you think it through!)

- **HERE is where we need others.** God calls us to be a part of His church, one reason

is that we need each other - for many things - not the least of which is to help us understand His word. We all have blind spots, we all have sin, we all get confused ... thus we ALL need others to discuss the Word with.

Consultation (Checking with the Great cloud of Witnesses)

1) Bringing in the Experts

- Study Bibles
- Bible Study Resources
- Commentaries
- Church Fathers, Gifted Writers

2) Learning from Mentors

- Pastors, elders in church
- Mature Christian leaders, Friends

3) Growing in Community

- Wrestling through application with peers
- Sharing what God give you with others

Helpful Resources

{see chart on next page, also see Bible Study References on page 4}

1. Bible

For study

New American Standard (NASV)
English Standard Version (ESV)
New International Version (NIV - 1984)
New King James Version (NKJV)

For reading

New Living Translation (NLV)
Phillips
Amplified

2. Dictionary and Encyclopedia

English dictionary
Unger's Bible Dictionary
The New Bible Dictionary
Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible
International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

3. Concordance

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
Young's Analytical Concordance of the Bible
Englishman's Greek Concordance
New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

4. Bible Atlas

Oxford Bible Atlas

5. General Reference

Bible Almanac
Unger's Bible Handbook
Introduction to the Old Testament (Glendon Archer)
A Survey of Israel's History (Leon Wood)
An Introduction to the New Testament (D. Edmund Hiebert)
Introduction to the New Testament (Donald Guthrie)
New Testament Survey (Robert Gromacki)
New Testament History (F. F. Bruce)

6. Commentaries (for background information)

Matthew Henry
The New Bible Commentary (Donald Guthrie)

7. Additional Study Helps

The Joy of Discovery (Oletta Wald)
Methodical Bible Study (Robert Traina)
Independent Bible Study (Irving Jensen)
Creative Bible Study (Larry Richards)
Living by the Book (Howard Hendricks)

8. Computer Software

QuickVerse for Windows (Parsons Technology)
Logos (Logos Software)

Bible Study Resources

All resources below are recommended by and available to borrow from Mark Bickel

**** are primary recommended resources**

How to Study the Bible

**** Living by the Book** by Howard Hendricks : excellent, motivational intro to OIA, with practical examples in every chapter. He also has a workbook that gives more in depth practice for each chapter.

**** Methodical Bible Study** by Robert Traina : Detailed discussion of OIA, excellent reference

Observe, Interpret, Apply by Hans Finzel: Discusses OIA for each genre of Scripture

**** Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind** by Tremper Longman III : Very good motivational book, with big picture ideas for each genre of scripture.

Knowing Scripture by R. C. Sproul: practical guidelines for good interpretation

Words of Delight by Leland Ryken: more in depth look at how to study different genres of Scripture

Biblical Exegesis by John Piper: brief booklet with lots of helps in understanding the relationships between words and phrases in passages.

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur : Good, Simple description of Bible study methods

Bruce and Stan's Guide to the Bible is a simple introductory guide to the Bible for new Christians.

**** Knowable Word** by Peter Krol: Excellent, easy to read introduction to OIA Bible Study. Also check out his weekly Blog with examples at knowableword.com

Reference Works

**** Talk through the Old Testament** and **Talk Through the New Testament** by Wilkinson and Boa : great outlines and charts for each book of the Bible, overview of book, as well as key verses.

**** Holman QuickSource Bible Atlas with Charts and Biblical Reconstructions** and **Holman Quicksourse Guide to Understanding the Bible** are each excellent, concise guides with lots of colored charts and pictures to get a sense of the Biblical geography, helpful charts, and overview of each book of the Bible

NIV Compact Concordance by John R. Kohlenberger III, good, easy to carry around concordance, that is complete enough for most all uses. For a complete concordance of every word in the Bible, either get **Strong Exhaustive Concordance** (KJV) or one of the **NIV Exhaustive Concordances**.

NIV Compact Bible Dictionary by Douglas and Tenney, good, easy to carry around dictionary with several paragraph description, as well as maps and diagrams, for most words in the Bible. There are also many larger Bible dictionaries out there. It is good to have one on hand for more in depth study of the word, and to help with concepts that are unfamiliar.

New Unger's Bible Handbook, Student Edition by Merrill F. Unger, good summary of each book of the Bible, with full color photos, maps and charts. Student edition is condensed, compact version.

Zondervan Handbook of the Bible good overview of each chapter of each book of the Bible, with lots of color photos, maps, and summaries of background.

Bible Atlas will provide detailed maps of each period of Biblical history, as well as background info.

IVP Bible Background Commentaries Verse by Verse commentary on the customs of the people mentioned in the passage. Very helpful because you can look up background notes directly by looking up the passage in question.

What the Bible is All About by Henrietta C. Mears: summary of each book of the Bible, with some key sections to read to get an overview in a week. Focuses on how each book reveals Jesus.

**** Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament** by Beale and Carson

Study Bibles

ESV Study Bible, recently published study Bible with good introductory notes on much of the Bible

New Geneva Study Bible, Excellent Reformed footnotes by R.C. Sproul, James Boice, Bruce Walkie, and other noted reformed scholars. (New King James Version)

International Inductive Study Bible, wide margins make this an ideal Bible to mark-up for manuscript studies. Each book has a brief intro and gives suggestions of things to look for (repeated words to circle, key questions to keep in mind). It is Not a commentary, but a good study tool. (available in several versions)

Online Resources

**** Bible Gateway** dozens of versions of the Bible with quick tools for searching
<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

Blue Letter Bible lots of reference materials on the Bible
<http://www.blueletterbible.org/>

Insights for Living good summary charts for each book of the Bible.
<http://www.insight.org/ministry/bible/>

Swartzentrover Summary charts, links to tons of other resources (note: we would not agree with all of his theology)
<http://www.swartzentrover.com/cotor/Bible/indexbible.htm>

A Chronological Map from Creation to the Fourth Century A.D., edited by Alfred Nevin, *The Parallel Bible*. Blue Letter Bible. 1 Jun 2002. 19 Jun 2006. Fabulous timeline. Other resources on parent site as well. (basis for all my timelines)
<http://blueletterbible.org/study/parallel/timeline/index.html>

Bible History – site full of maps, historical documents, links to other sites, fun...
<http://www.bible-history.com/>

Biblical Art on the WWW. Links by topic and Bible story to thousands of paintings and drawings accessible on the web. (source of most all drawings in my presentations)
<http://www.biblical-art.com/>

Logos Bible Software Excellent Bible Study software for PC, MAC and Mobile devices, tens of thousands of reference works also available for purchase, all fully searchable and integrated with the Bible
<http://www.logos.com/>

**** You Version** you can create custom Bible reading plans with daily email or smart phone reminders
<http://www.youversion.com>

ESV Bible / ESV Study Bible excellent modern Bible translation, also online and mobile apps
<http://www.esv.org/> and <http://about.esvbible.org/>

Ephesians Commentaries

The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Ephesians by John R.W. Stott

The NIV Application Commentary: Ephesians by Klyne Snodgrass

Let's Study Ephesians by Sinclair B. Ferguson

An Expositional Commentary: Ephesians by James Montgomery Boice

Ephesians: Reformed Expository Commentary by Bryan Chapell

Knowing the Bible: Ephesians, a 12-week Study by Eric. C. Redmond

The Good Book Guide to Ephesians: a 10-week Study by Thabiti Anyabwile

Bridging the Gap between Interpretation and Application

Pitfalls to avoid

Substituting interpretation for application

Knowing the Master's will is not the same as obedience

Substituting superficial obedience for substantive life-change

Obedience in one area does not assure obedience in all

Substituting rationalization for repentance

"This isn't talking about me because..."

Substituting emotional experience for a conscious decision to change

Being "blessed by the Truth" is not the same as allowing the Truth to change you.

Know

Know the Scriptures

Know Yourself

Meditate

Questions to ask yourself

Is there some area of my life for which this truth is needed?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a prayer to repeat?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a condition to meet?

Relate

Relate the Truth to your circumstances

Relate the Truth to others' circumstances

Be careful here: be sure to get the log out of your eye before trying to remove the spec from your brother's

Practice

Take little steps

Establish manageable goals

It's a Matter of Principles

Principles should correlate with the general teaching of Scripture

Principles should speak to the needs, interests and problems of today

Principles should indicate a course of action

Today's Study: Ephesians 4:1-16 {Page 6, Line 86 – Page 7, Line 103}

Home Study: Ephesians 4:17-32 {Page 7, Line 103 – Page 8, Line 121}

Read: prayerfully fill out “**Response and Evaluation**”

Week 7: Ephesians 4:1-16

March 1, 2020 – Unity and Body Life

Ephesians 4:1-16 { Page 6, Line 86 – Page 7, Line 103}

OBSERVATION

1) **THEREFORE** - based on the fact being made people of God

2) **LIVE WORTHY:**

- Rest of Ephesians is practical instructions on how to Live out the truths of Chapters 1-3

- **of What** Call - call to glorify God, be His people

- **How** Lowliness

Meekness

Patience

Forbearing each other - in love

Eager for Unity - in Spirit - in bond of Peace (link to ch 2)

- **Why** One Body

One Spirit

One Hope

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God & Father of all - above, through and in all

3) Grace Given

- to all: i.e. to each of you
- According to God's gift - not of ourselves, by God
- But the gifts differ - does not effect oneness or merit
 - same God, given by Him and for Him, not based on us
- Some have each : apostles, prophets, evangelist, Pastors, Teachers

Why: Equip saints - for works of ministry
Build up body of Christ

Goal: All attain unity of faith
All attain knowledge of Son of God
Grow into mature manhood
To measure of stature of fullness of Christ

Fruit: No longer children
Not tossed around by winds of doctrine
Or cunning of man - by cunning, deceit

Grow up in Christ

(who is head and knits all together, gives life)

Speaking truth in love

Growing into Christ

Unbuilding self in Love

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Note : do you see how practical this is?

This gives great stuff about your **goals in life**,
and your **Role in Kingdom!**

Do you have a **plan to grow** into maturity?

Do you know how you fit in to **equip others**?

Do you think In these kind of categories?

Do we **think as a body**?

1) Basis for Church ... One God, One Body

2) Goal of Church ... Grow to Maturity

3) How will we get there... Every member do it's part

4) How will it happen - Christ Fill us

5) PRAYER ... Pray Eph 3 and 4 for LEADERS and EACH OTHER !