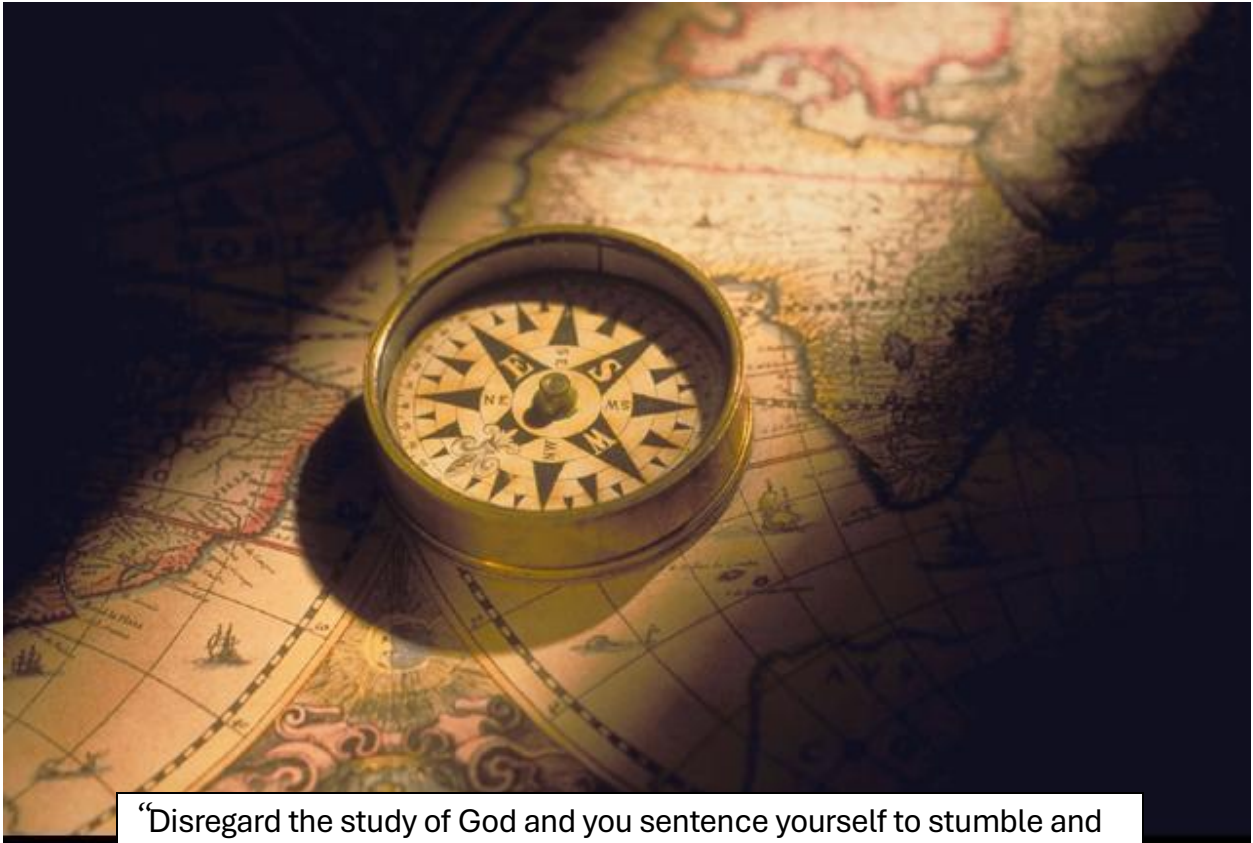


How to Study the Bible



“Disregard the study of God and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life, blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you”

- J. I. Packer



Session 2 - Observation

Overview of the Process

9:00 – 9:05



OBSERVATION

WHAT DO WE SEE?



INTERPRETATION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN
(ESPECIALLY TO THE ORIGINAL
AUDIENCE)?



APPLICATION

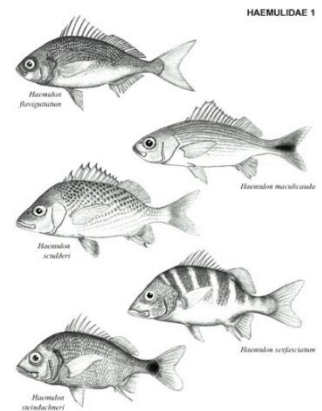
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT IT?

Assignment Review

9:05 – 9:15

The Student, The Fish and Agassiz

Norman Rockwell – *April Fools*



Ten Ways to Read

9:15 – 9:20

Which of the following come easy to you? Which are more difficult?

How To read	Description/Notes/Comments/ Thoughts	Suggestions for me
Thoughtfully	The same way you would read for your job, or other need (illness) <i>When was a time that you studied thoughtfully? Vacation, sickness?</i>	
Repeatedly	Do you have a reading plan? Different ways, translations, all at once, plan, etc	
Patiently	With the text and yourself Realize you're working for the long haul	
Selectively	Using the right bait – questions: who, what, where, when, why, wherefore (so what).	
Prayerfully	From the heart and honest communication Use scripture especially Psalms	
Imaginatively	Read out loud, different translations, different places, from different perspective of the characters	
Meditatively	Reflect, contemplate, like you would about your favorite activities	
Purposefully	Consider the aim of the author Look at the grammar (verbs, subjects, modifiers) Literary purpose	
Acquisitively	To retain and posses	
Telescopically	Be able to put all the pieces back together and show the parts in light of the whole	

Five Things to Look For:

9:20 – 9:25

1. Things Emphasized
 - a. Amount of Space
 - b. Stated Purpose
 - c. Order
 - d. Movement from lesser to greater & Vice-Versa

2. Things Repeated
 - a. Terms, phrases, clauses
 - b. Characters
 - c. Incidents & Circumstances
 - d. Patterns
 - e. New Testament use of Old testament passages

3. Things that are Related
 - a. Movement from the general to the specific
 - b. Questions and Answers
 - c. Cause and Effect

4. Things that are alike & contrasted
 - a. Similes
 - b. Metaphors
 - c. Use of BUT
 - d. Irony

5. Things that are True to Life
 - a. People/characters
 - b. Situations

Questions to ask:

9:25 – 9:30

1. _____ Who _____

2. _____ What _____

3. _____ Where _____

4. _____ When _____

5. _____ Why _____

How

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.

I send them over land and sea,
I send them east and west;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.

I let them rest from nine till five,
For I am busy then,
As well as breakfast, lunch, and tea,
For they are hungry men.

But different folk have different views;
I know a person small-
She keeps ten million serving-men,
Who get no rest at all!

She sends'em abroad on her own affairs,
From the second she opens her eyes-
One million Hows, two million Wheres,
And seven million Whys!

- Rudyard Kipling

How to Study the Bible – Session 2 Observation

Book: Proverbs _____	Passage: Prov 3:1-12 _____	Theme: _____
Author: _____	Time/Era: _____	Audience: _____
Background: See 1 Chr 28:9		

TEXT:	OBSERVATION	INTERPRETATION:
Prov 3:1-12 (ESV)	Who? Where? When? Terms: Alike/Contrast/Patterns: What? Repeated: Cause & Effect	Questions:
<p>¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ² for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.</p> <p>³ Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.</p> <p>⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.</p> <p>⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.</p> <p>⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.</p> <p>¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹² for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.</p>		

	Do not do this	Do this	Get this
1-2	Forget my teaching	Keep my commandments	Length of days Years of life peace
3-4	Forsake steadfast love and faithfulness	Bind them on your neck Write them on tablet of your heart	Find favor and good success in the sight of God and Man
5-6	Lean on your understanding	Trust in the Lord with all your heart Acknowledge him in all my ways	Straight paths
7-8	Be wise in your own eyes	Fear the Lord Turn away from evil	Healing to your flesh Refreshment to your bones
9-10		Honor the Lord with your wealth and firstfruits of produce	Barns filled with plenty Vats bursting with wine
11-12	Despise the Lord's discipline Weary of reproof		Loved and delighted by the Lord

9:55 – 10:00

Conclusion

- Set your heart _____ to study _____
- Practice observing the text deliberately _____
- Always consider the _____ context _____
- Record questions and observations _____
- Keep Learning new things

For Next Week

- Read Proverbs 3:1-12 using the Ten different approaches
- Complete additional observations of Proverbs 3:1-12
- Record additional questions you have from the passage.