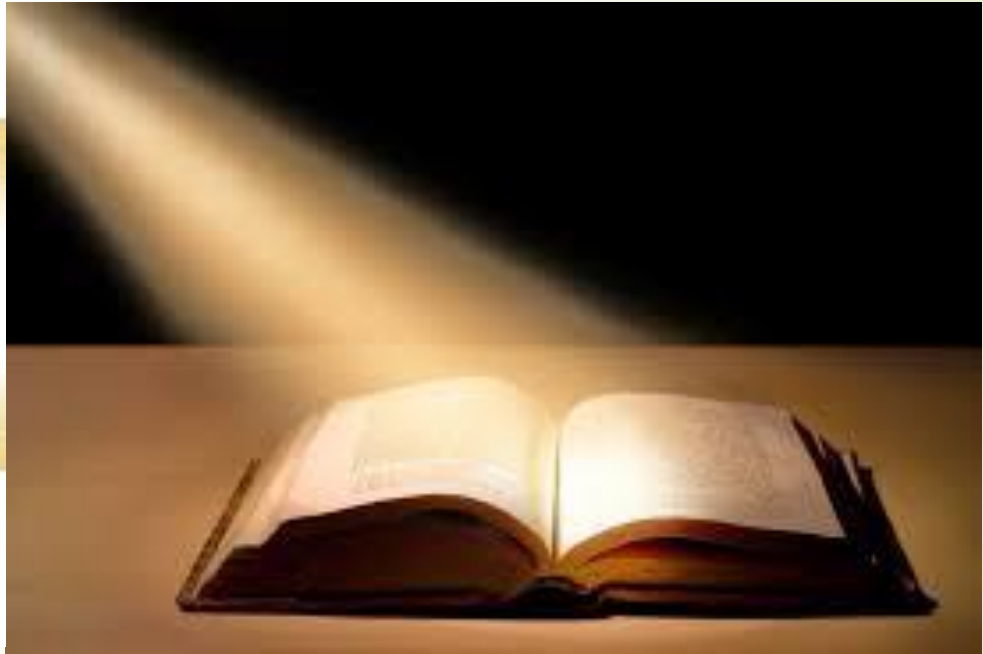
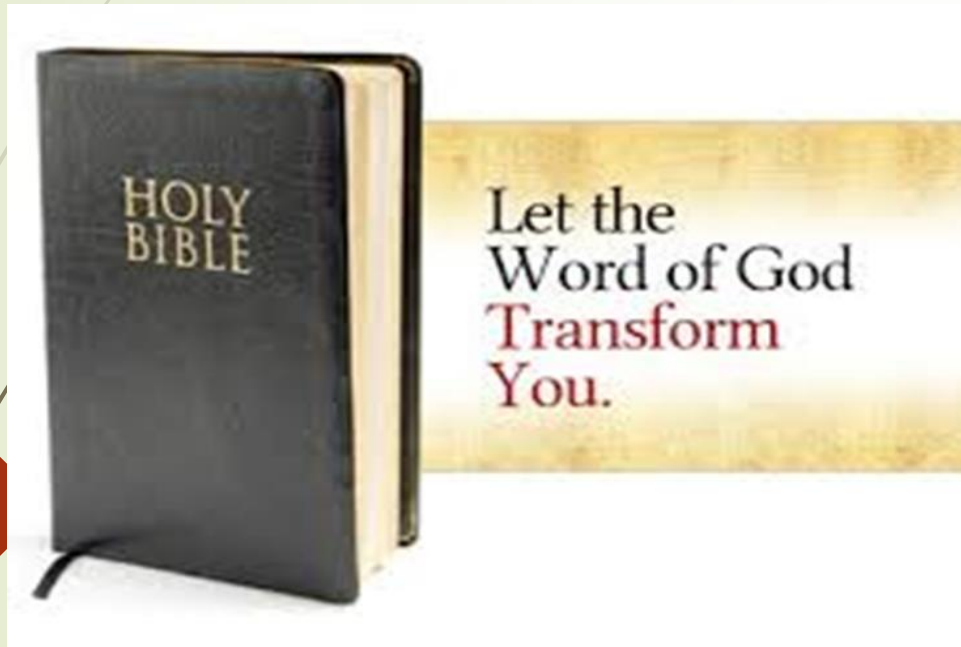



How to study the Bible inductively





Presented by Mark Yang
Nov 25, 2017



➤ **Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.**

➤ ***Refrain 1:***


**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**



Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

➤ *Refrain 2:*


Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!



➤ **Open my mind, that I may read
More of Thy love in word and deed;
What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead?
Only for light from Thee I plead.**

➤ ***Refrain 3:***

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my mind, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**



➤ **Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.**


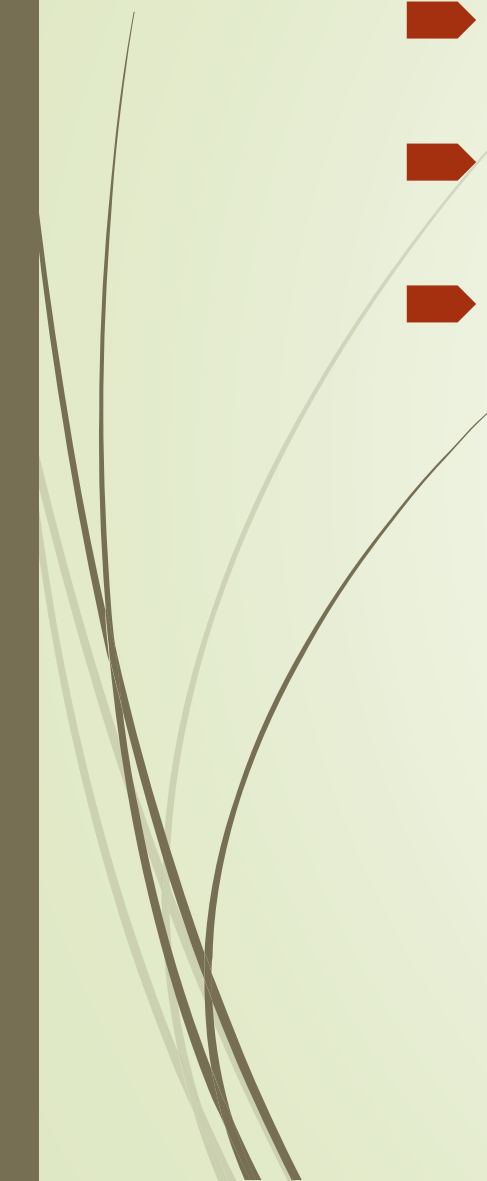
➤ ***Refrain 4:***

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**



The Purpose of IBSW

- 1 Peter 2:2-3, “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”
- The purpose of this presentation is to inspire love for the word of God, like that of newborn babies who crave pure spiritual milk . Then we can grow up in our salvation and taste that the Lord is good.

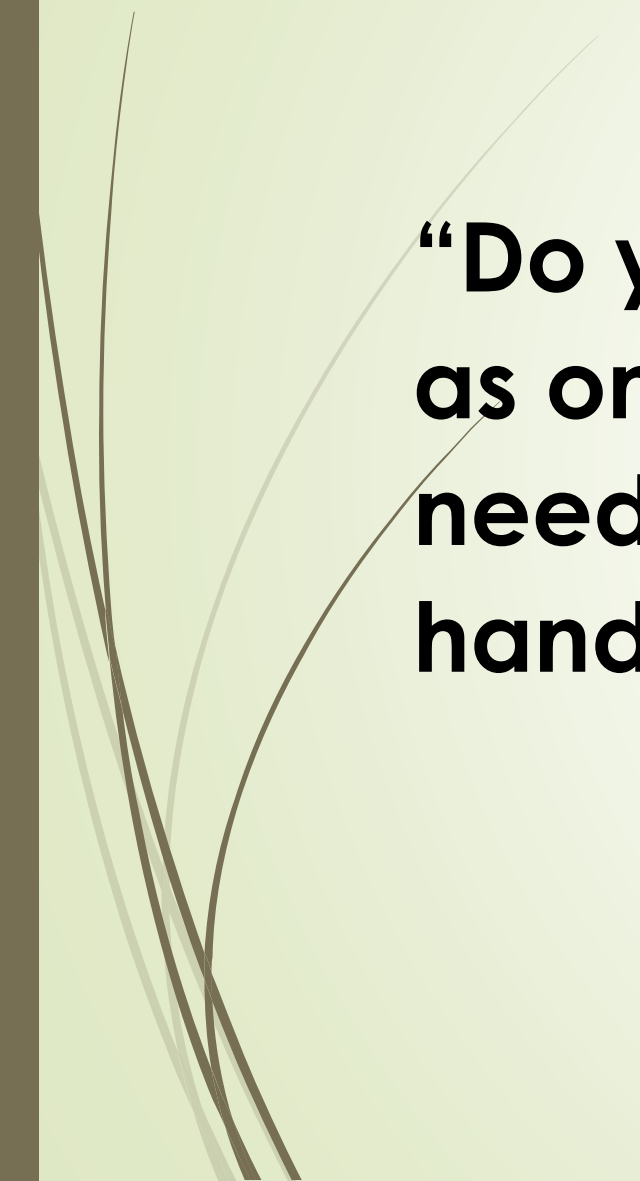
- 
- Carry the Bible wherever we go
 - Read the Bible regularly
 - Memorize the Bible verses
- 






Key verse

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed **and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2Tim 2:15 NIV)**



Other prominent Bible translations

- ▶ “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**” (KJV)
- ▶ “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**” (NKJV)
- ▶ “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.**” (NASB)
- ▶ “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**” (RSV)
- ▶ “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**” (ESV)


- 
- The key word is **handle**, which comes from the Greek word ὀρθοτομέω (orthotomeo).
 - Orthos means “straight,” and temno means “to cut.”
 - Cut a path through a forest area → **Cut a straight path to the truth.**
 - Give accurate instruction—to teach correctly or to expound rightly.
 - Being around the bush vs getting to the point



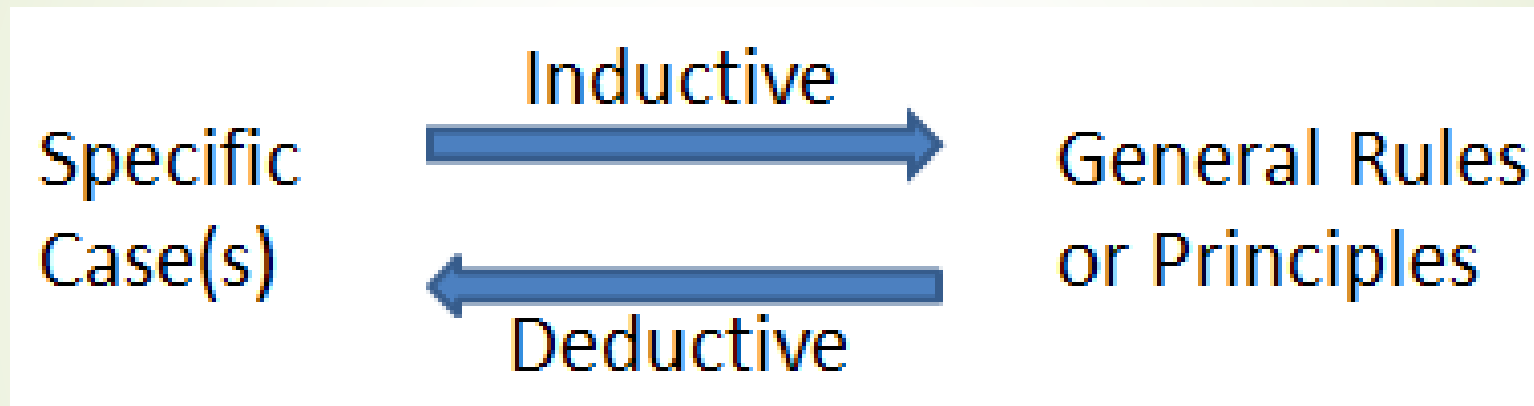
Introduction

➔ 2 Timothy 3:15

“...the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

- 
- **“Everything essential to salvation and Christian living is clearly revealed in *Scripture*”** (Bernard Ramm)
 - We should first discover **what the Bible truly says, what it means, and how we are to apply it to our life.**
 - IBS uses the ***Bible itself*** as the **primary source** of information *about* the Bible.

Deductive vs. Inductive method



Mathematics? Deductive

Natural sciences (i.e., Biology/Chemistry) Inductive



The pitfalls of using **the deductive approach to Bible study**

- It causes the danger of imputing a **subjective** meaning on the text which is not intended by the author
- The Bible is an **objective** body of literature; it contains **objective** meaning and truth waiting to be discovered

Deductive vs. Inductive Reasoning in Bible Study

Deductive Reasoning

- ➔ Drawing upon the Bible to reinforce your own ideas—even if those ideas are true—is a **misuse of God's word**
- ➔ Bible warns us **not** to add anything to Scripture or to take away from it (Rev 22:18-19)

Inductive Reasoning

- ➔ The inductive method is a **safeguard** against subjective interpretation
- ➔ Inductive study is the **best way** to approach and handle the Bible with respect as the word of God

Three components of IBS

The word cloud features the following terms:

- Interpretation** (large, dark red)
- Application** (large, dark red)
- Bible Study** (largest, dark red)
- Context** (vertical, dark red)
- Observation** (vertical, dark red)
- Key Words** (vertical, dark red)
- Prayer** (vertical, dark red)
- Themes Lists** (dark red)
- Comparisons** (dark red)
- Teaching** (dark red)
- Reproof** (dark red)
- Correction** (dark red)
- Training in Righteousness** (small, dark red)
- Interrogate** (small, dark red)
- Contrasts** (small, dark red)
- Expressions of Time** (small, grey)
- Cross-References** (small, grey)

Observation

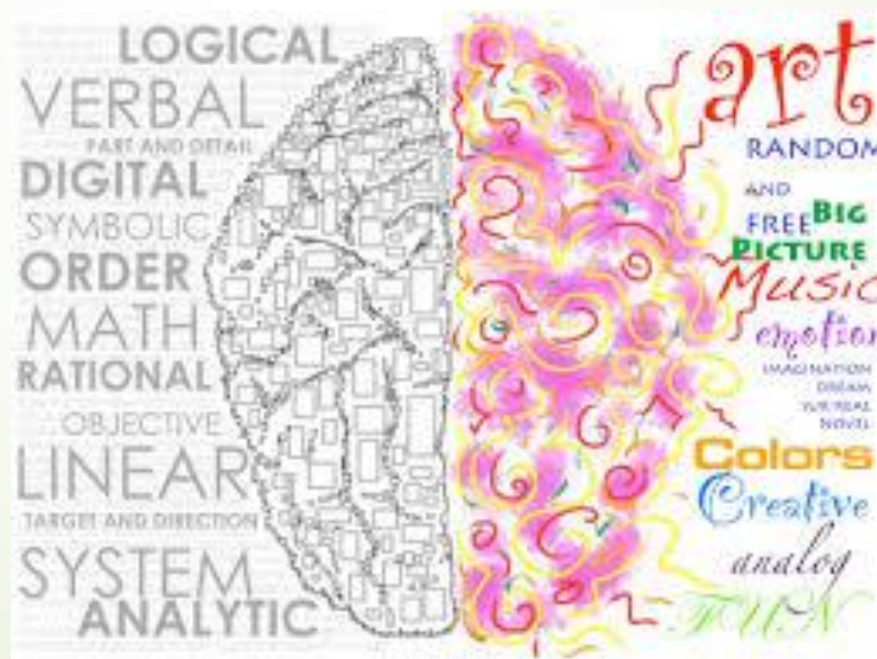
- **Observation** asks, “*What does the passage say?*”
 - All the facts of who, what, where, when, and how.
 - Careful examination of the facts is the foundation upon which we build accurate interpretation and proper application of God’s word
 - Hasty and poor observation leads to misunderstanding and causes serious problems.
 - **Good observation is the beginning of good interpretation.**

Interpretation

- Interpretation asks, “*What does the passage mean?*”
- Interpretation is both a **science** and an **art**.

Science

A logical,
orderly
classification of
the laws of
interpretation



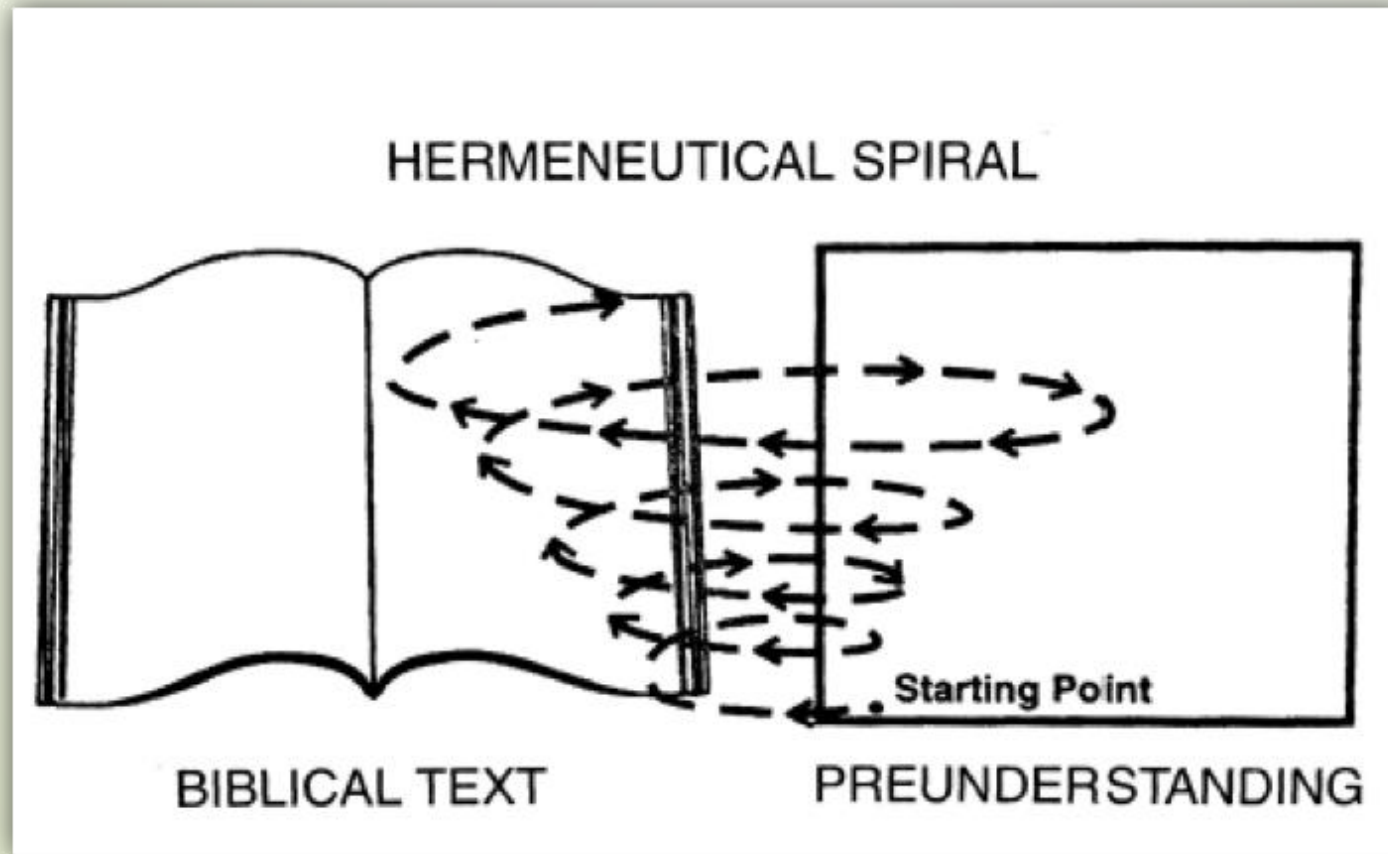
Art

Imagination
and an ability
to apply the
“laws” to
selected
passages or
books

The overview of three components of IBS: Interpretation, cont.

- Biblical interpretation entails “spirals.”

The spiral flows between the interpreter and the text.



This spiral also flows from text to context, from its original meaning to its contextualization.

The overview of three components of IBS:

Application

- **Application** asks, *“How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?”*
- Application is **the goal** of Bible Study
- Applying the word of God leads us to salvation and to grow in Jesus’ image, and equips us to do good work.
- Bible Study **without application** produces **hypocrites**.
- The Scriptures were given “for rebuke, correction, and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for **every good work**” (2Ti 3:16-17).

Observation



- A. Requisites of observation are “will,” “exactness” and “persistence”.
- B. Observation begins with reading the book
- C. Identify the type (genre) of literature
- D. Discover the facts: ask the 5 W’s and an H
- E. The five things to look for
- F. Get a big picture

A. Requisites of observation are “**will,**”
“exactness” and “persistence”

Will



A. Requisites of observation are “will,”
“exactness**” and “persistence”**

Exactness



A. Requisites of observation are “will,”
“exactness” and “persistence”

Persistence


never
never
never
give
up


(winston churchill)



B. Observation begins with reading the book

- We need to take time to read the text.
- The more we read, the more we will figure them out.
- **How many times** should we read it?
 - Read it **over and over again—not once or twice but a hundred times to gain insight**
- If we read entire books at one sitting, this helps us grasp a big picture.

- 
- Reading requires patience.
 - We should be **patient with the text**, and be **patient with ourselves**.
 - Try to learn from the text **without** prejudice or preconceived ideas
 - As seasoned Christians, it's easy to hold a biased view of the text. We need to put aside our past knowledge and experience

- 
- We need to put aside our past knowledge and experience
 - The appropriate approach is to try to read the text **as though we are reading it for the first time**
 - The question is **how**?
 - The best way is to make a detailed factual study
 - Through factual study, we try to find the key idea and the key verse of the book

Detailed Titus Factual Study

1:1—Paul's identity and content of his ministry

1:2–3—the hope of eternal life revealed

1:4—Paul's greetings to Titus

1:5–9—appoint qualified elders/overseers

1:5 Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders in every town

1:6 elder's family life

1:7–8 overseer's blameless character

1:9 overseer's holding the trustworthy message and teaching sound doctrine

1:10–16—description of false teachers in the Cretan church

1:10–11—rebellious false teachers, their influence and motives

1:12–13a—Cretan tendencies

1:13b–14—Titus' mission to rebuke false teachers

1:15—the pure versus corrupted people

1:16—they deny God by their actions

2:1–10—teach doing what is good, in order to uphold the gospel teaching

2:1–2—teach older men to be good examples

2:3–5—teach older women to be good role models and teachers for younger women

2:6–8—set a good example for young men in life and teaching

2:9–10—teach slaves to be submissive and trustworthy

2:11–14—the grace of God changes us

2:11—God's grace for all people

2:12—God's grace teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness, but "Yes" to godliness

2:13–14 Jesus' sacrifice and Second Coming enables us to be eager to do good

2:15—encourage and rebuke with all authority

3:1–11—teach believers how to live in society

3:1—be subject and obedient to rulers and ready to do good

3:2—be peaceable, considerate and gentle

3:3—we used to be just as wicked as anyone else

3:4–7—how God saved us because of his mercy

3:4—God's kindness and love appeared in Jesus

3:5—he saved us, by his mercy, through the work of the Holy Spirit

3:6—the Holy Spirit is poured out on us generously through Jesus

3:7—we are justified by grace and are heirs of eternal life

3:8—stress these things so that people may be careful to do what is good

3:9—avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, quarrels

3:10–11—how to deal with a divisive person

3:12–15—final remarks

3:12—come to me at Nicopolis

3:13—help Zenas and Apollos

3:14—Christians should devote themselves to doing what is good

3:15—greet those who love us in the faith



Outline of Titus

- I. Introduction and Greetings (1:1–4)
- II. Appoint Qualified Elders/Overseers (1:5–9)
- III. False Teachers in the Cretan Churches (1:10–16)
- IV. Doing What is Good, to Uphold the Gospel (2:1–10)
- V. The Grace of God Transforms our Practical Lives (2:11–15)
- VI. Teach Believers How to Live in Society (3:1–11)
- VII. Final Remarks (3:12–15)

C. Identify the type (genre) of literature

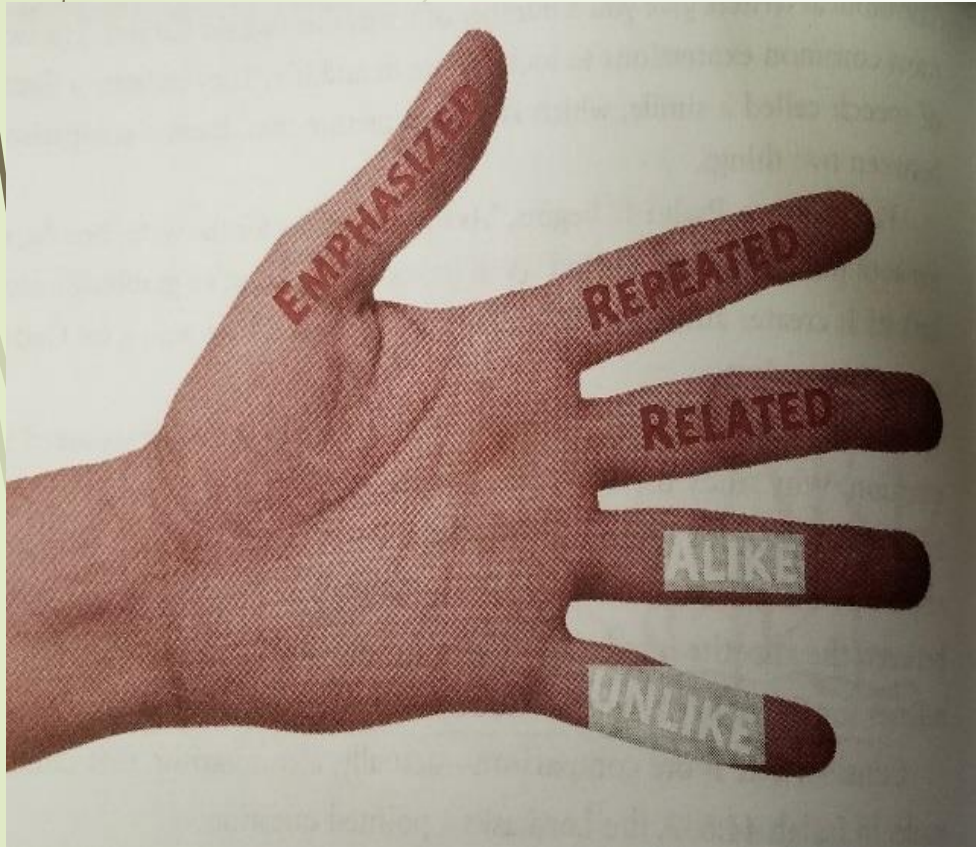
- The type of literature determines the way you will handle the text
 - Is it historical?
 - Is it biographical?
 - Is it poetic?
 - Is it proverbial?
 - Is it prophetic?
 - Is it an epistle?
 - Is it a combination.



D. Discover the facts: ask the 5 W's and an H

- Observing the whole involves discovering the facts in a passage.
 - **Who** wrote it? Who said it? Who is the main character?...
 - **What** is happening? Is the passage about events or ideas? What is the main subject, and what are the key words? ...
 - **When** was it written? When did this event take place? ...
 - **Where** was this said? Where was this done?
 - **Why** was this written? Why was this mentioned? ...
 - **How** is it done? How did it happen?


Observation: E. The five things to look for



- Thumb—Being emphasized
- Index finger—Being repeated
- Middle finger—related
- Ring finger—alike
- Little finger--unlike




Thumb—Being emphasized

- something by devoting a large portion of space to it.
 - by telling the purpose of his writing.
 - by means of comparative progression.
- 




Index finger—Being repeated

- Repetition reinforces.
 - Scripture constantly repeats terms, phrases, and clauses to emphasize their importance.
- 



Middle finger—related

- Relationship between the whole and its parts, between the big picture and the details.
 - Questions are followed by answers.
 - Cause-effect relationships
- 



Ring finger—alike

- Similes: The two most common expressions to look for are “as” and “like.”

1 Peter 2:2 says, “*Like* newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”

- Metaphors: A device related to the simile is the metaphor, where comparison is made without using *as* or *like*.

Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener” (Jn 15:1).



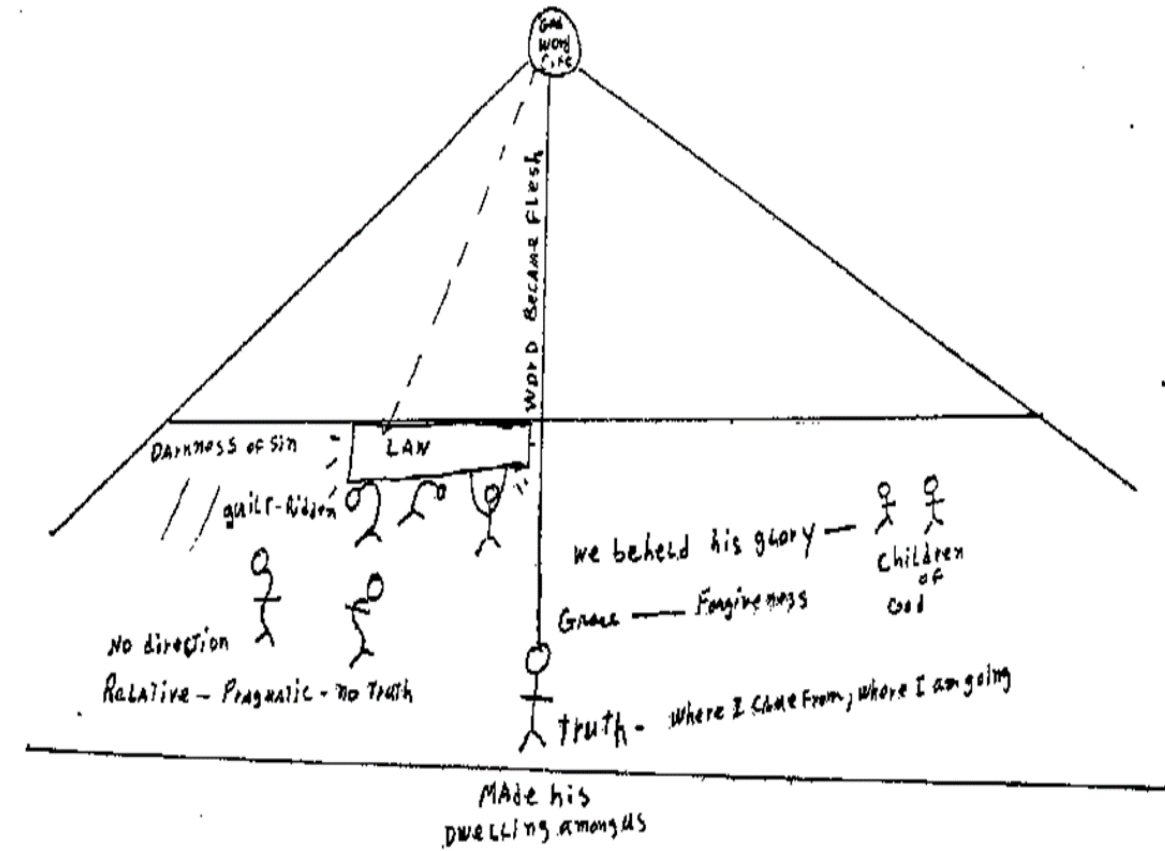
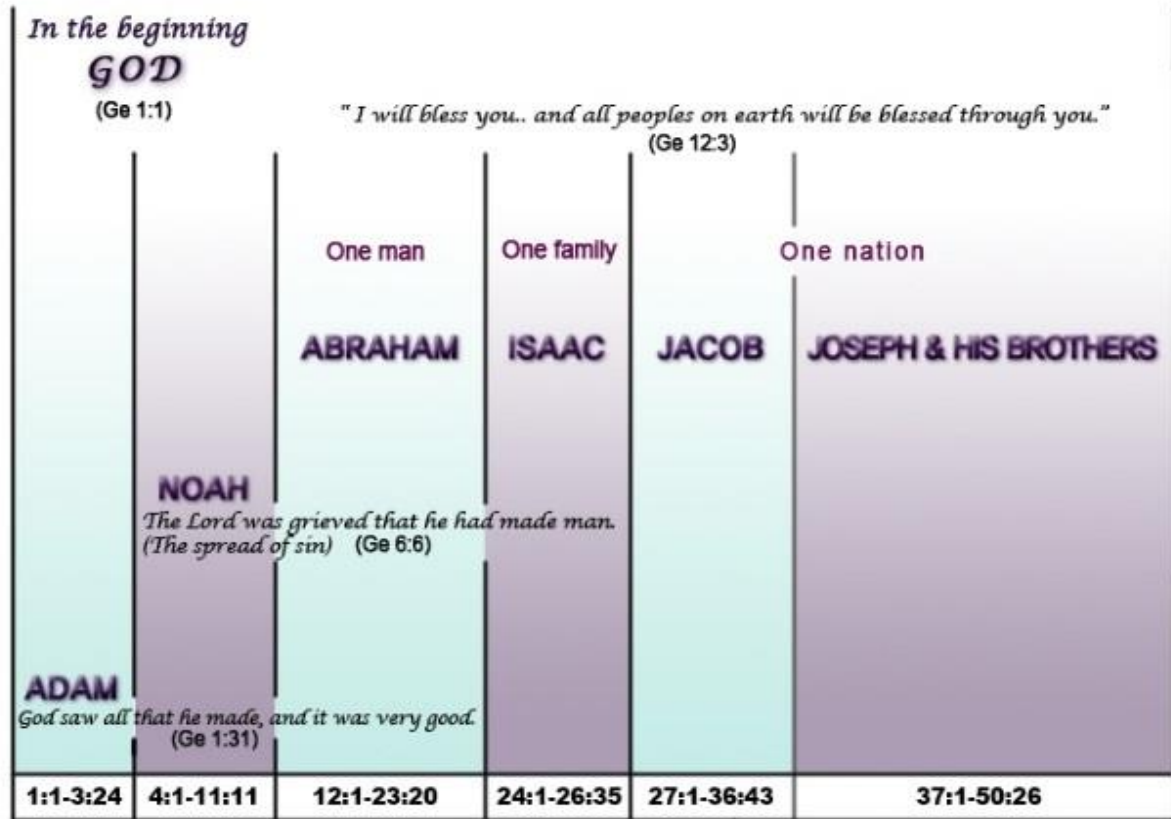
Little finger--unlike

- The flip side of comparison is contrast.
- The word “but” is a clue that a change of direction is coming.
- The words “on the contrary” signify a contrast of two things that are unlike.
- However:
- Sharp contrast between the two lists



Observation: F. Get a big picture

- We need to get a **bird's-eye view** before getting a “worm's-eye view
- One of the best ways of getting a big picture is to **make a chart** or **draw a picture**



(Genesis chart by Mother Sarah Barry)

(John's gospel picture by Mother Sarah Barry)

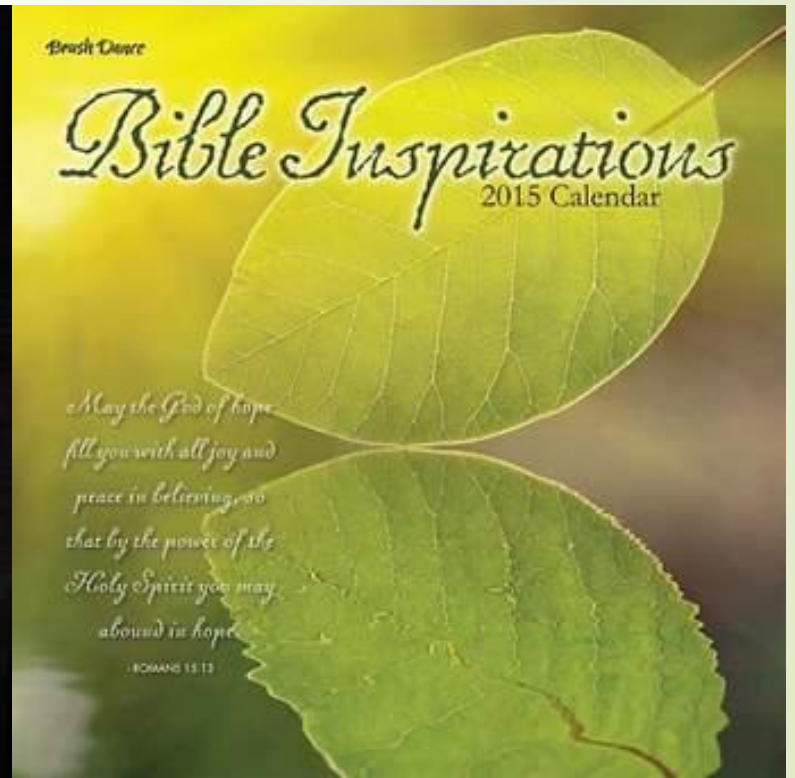




(1 Timothy diagram by UBF HQ Bible Study Committee)

Exercise 1

- Read 1 Samuel chapters 1-2.
- Identify the type (genre) of literature
- Discover the facts: ask the 5 W's and an H
- The five things to look for
 - Thumb—Being emphasized
 - Index finger—Being repeated
 - Middle finger—related
 - Ring finger—alike
 - Little finger—unlike
- Find the main idea of chapters 1-2

Interpretation



- 
- 
- To interpret correctly what the Bible's teachings truly mean we need some guidelines of interpretation to serve as boundaries.



Qualifications of an Interpreter

- A.** The person is born again
- B.** The person has a passion to know God's word
- C.** The person has a deep reverence for God
- D.** Spiritual purity
- E.** Spiritual growth

General Principles of Interpretation

- **Principle 1. Depend on the Holy Spirit**
- **Principle 2. Interpret the Bible *literally* not *allegorically* or *mystically***
- **Principle 3. Interpret the Bible in its Context**
- **Principle 4. Let Scripture interpret Scripture: *Correlation***
- **Principle 5. Interpret the Bible through Christ**




Principle 1. Depend on the Holy Spirit: *Pray for the Spirit's illumination*

- **A. The Bible is both a human book, and a spiritual book**
 - **John 16:13a “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”**
- **B. We can discover God’s wisdom only by the Holy Spirit, not by human wisdom (1 Co 2:14).**
- **C. Prayer is an integral part of Bible Study**



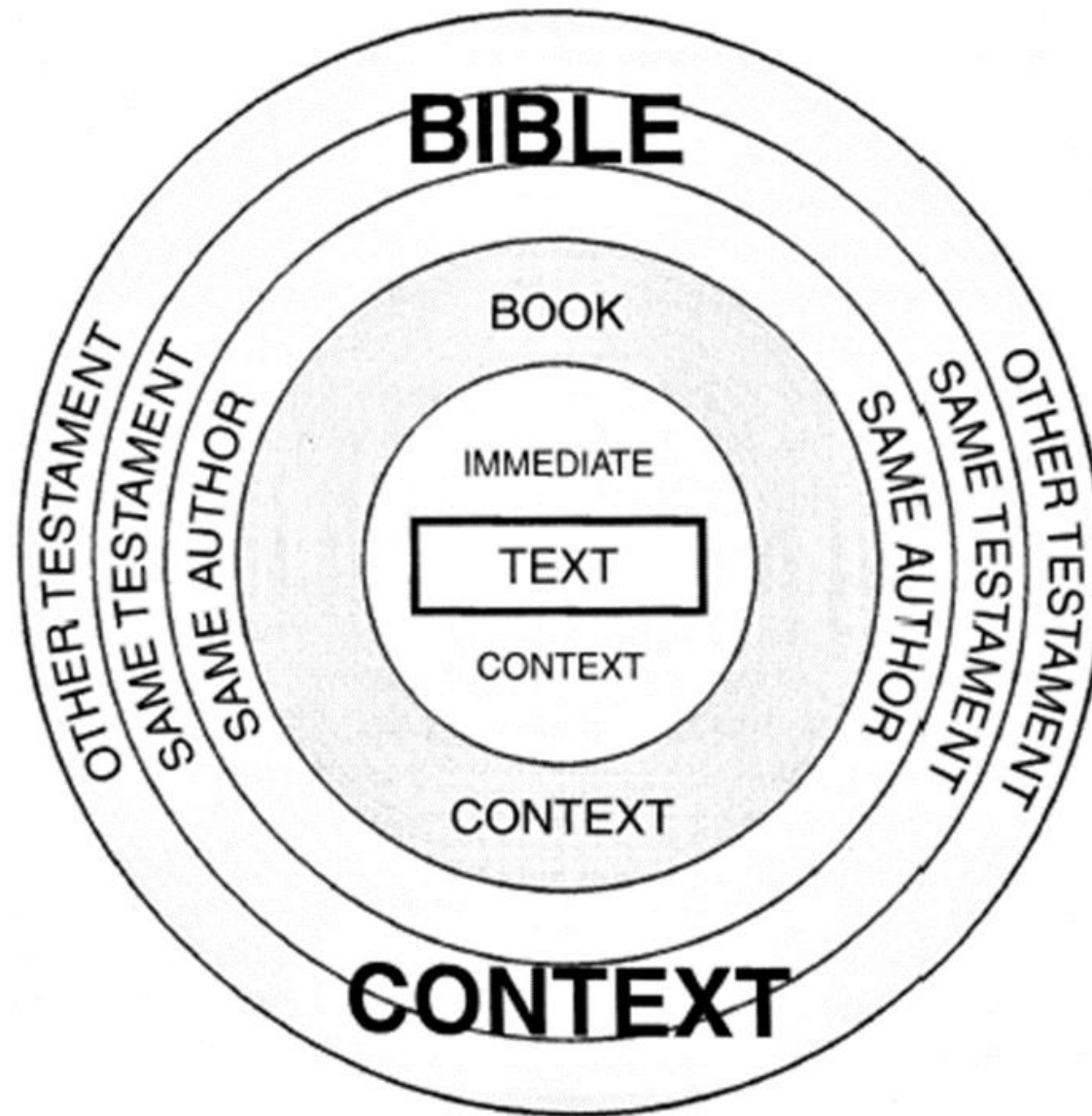
Principle 2. Interpret the Bible *literally* not *allegorically* or *mystically*


- The Bible is a literature...
 - The words should first be understood in their **historical context**, having the intended meaning in the usage of that day.
- We should take the word of God at face value, in its natural and common sense.

- 
- A. Understand in light of literary genre
 - B. Avoid allegorical interpretation without context
 - C. Literal interpretation is not the same as *letterism*, which exalts the very letters of Scripture
 - D. Historical errors of allegorical interpretation
 - The School of Alexandria vs. the School of Antioch

Principle 3. Interpret the Bible in its Context


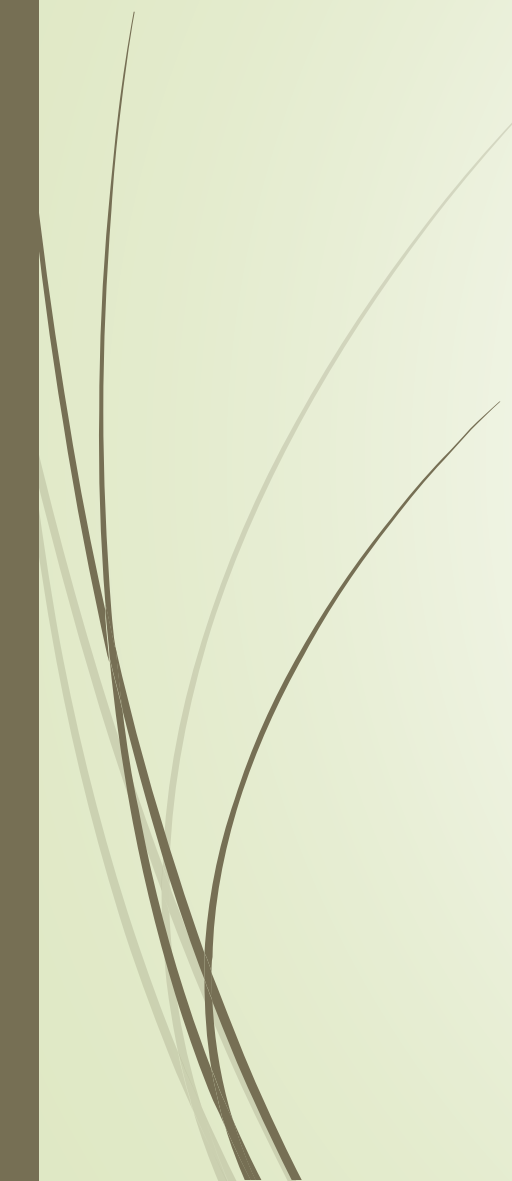
- A. The meaning of a passage must be viewed within the setting of the book
- To interpret a passage correctly we must examine different circles of context:
 1. Immediate context
 2. Entire book context
 3. Context of the Bible



- 
- ➔ B. Words and sentences occur in the context of a **conversation**, in the context of **language**, and in the context of a **culture**
 - ➔ **A language barrier and a culture barrier**
 - ➔ C. A cultural barrier is huge

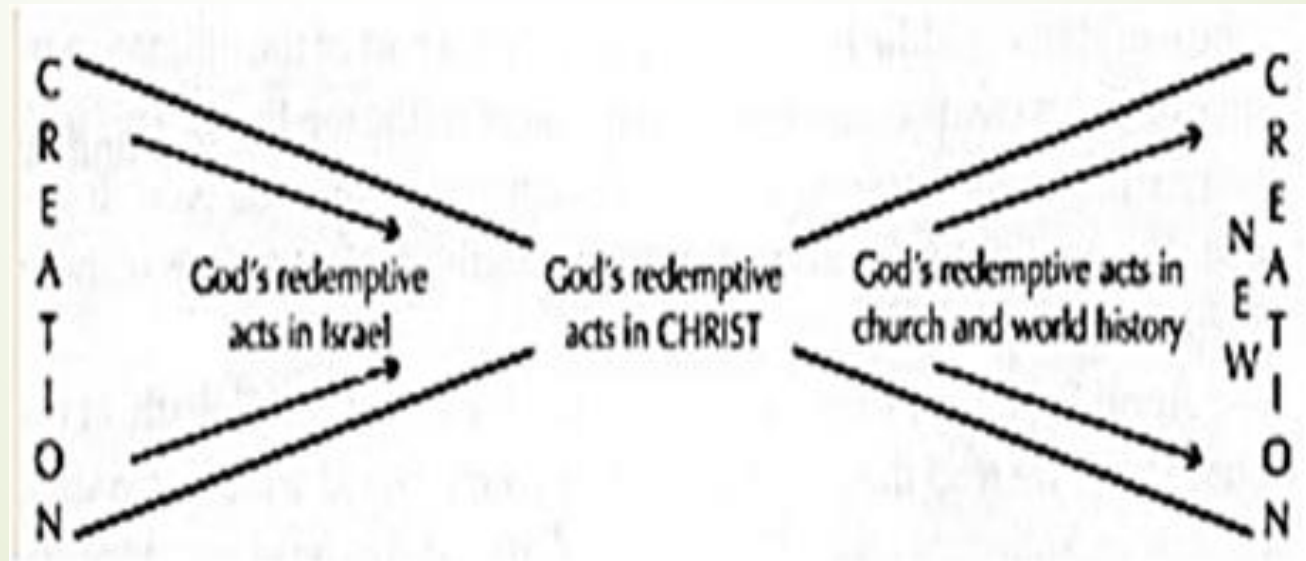
Principle 4. Let Scripture interpret Scripture: *Correlation*


- “Sacred Scripture is its own interpreter”) – the first tenet of the Reformation
 - The Bible does not contradict itself.
 - The Bible is a unity of revelation.
 - The Bible has one divine author, the Holy Spirit
 - By comparing one Scripture with other Scriptures, and the verse with other verses, we gain a deeper understanding of what it means.


- 
- **Cross-references**
 - **Concordance**
 - **Correlating Scripture is invaluable**
- 


Principle 5. Interpret the Bible through Christ


- ➔ **Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Bible. The unity of OT and NT is Christological.**

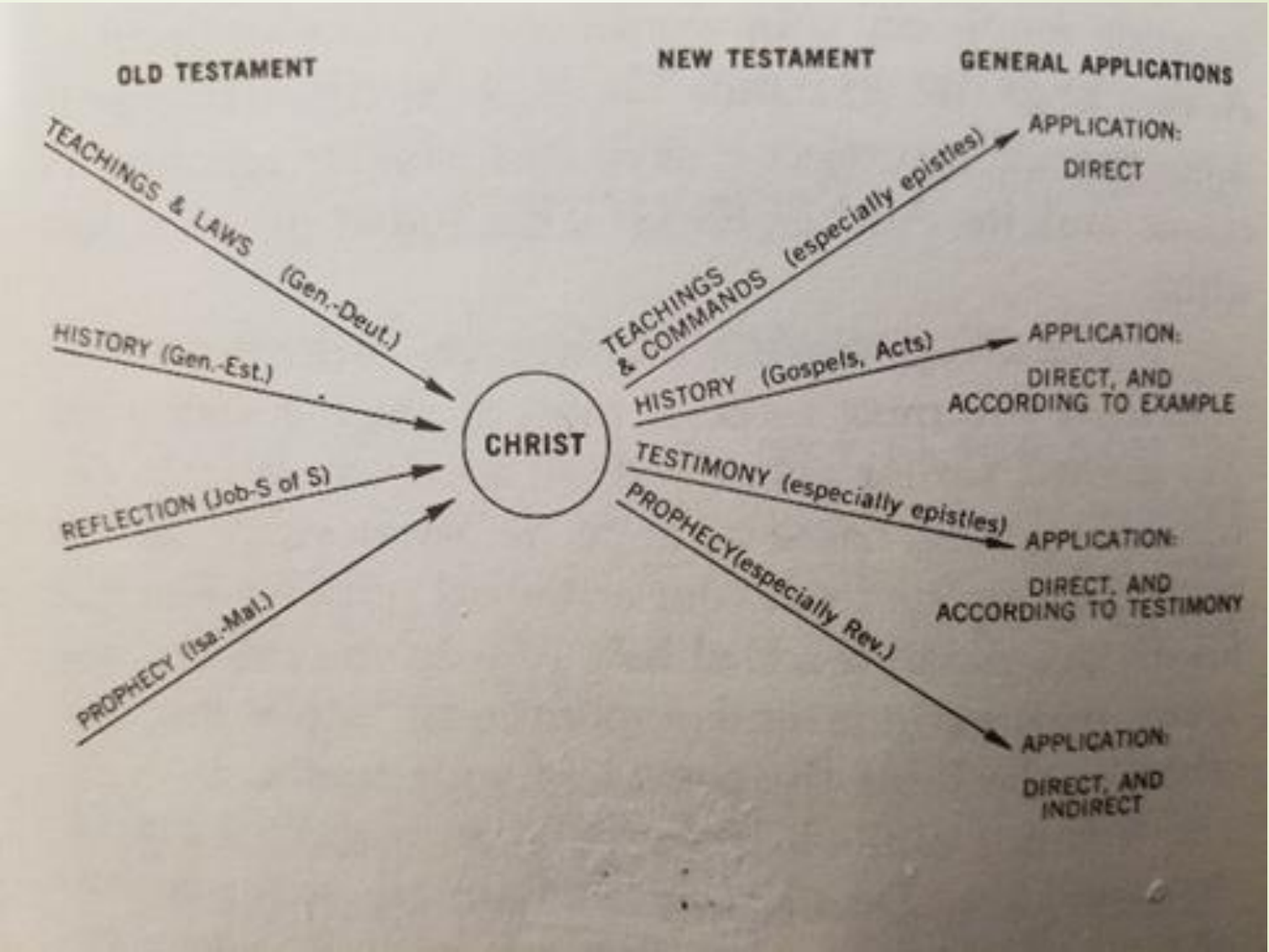



- 
- In the Old Testament, we can have the shadow preceding Christ, and in the New Testament we can meet with the body which cast the shadow.
 - Colossians 2:17, “These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”

- 
- Types are pictures or object lessons by which God taught His people concerning His grace and saving power.
 - Types are **persons, events and institutions**

- 
- The Old Testament contains the old covenant and foretells the coming of Christ through promises, prophecies and types.
 - The New Testament reveals a new covenant and shows how Christ fulfilled all the promises, prophecies and types of the Old Testament. Thus, Christ made the old covenant obsolete (Heb 8:13).
 - Jesus became **the perfect sacrifice, our everlasting high priest, and the new and living way** opened to God.

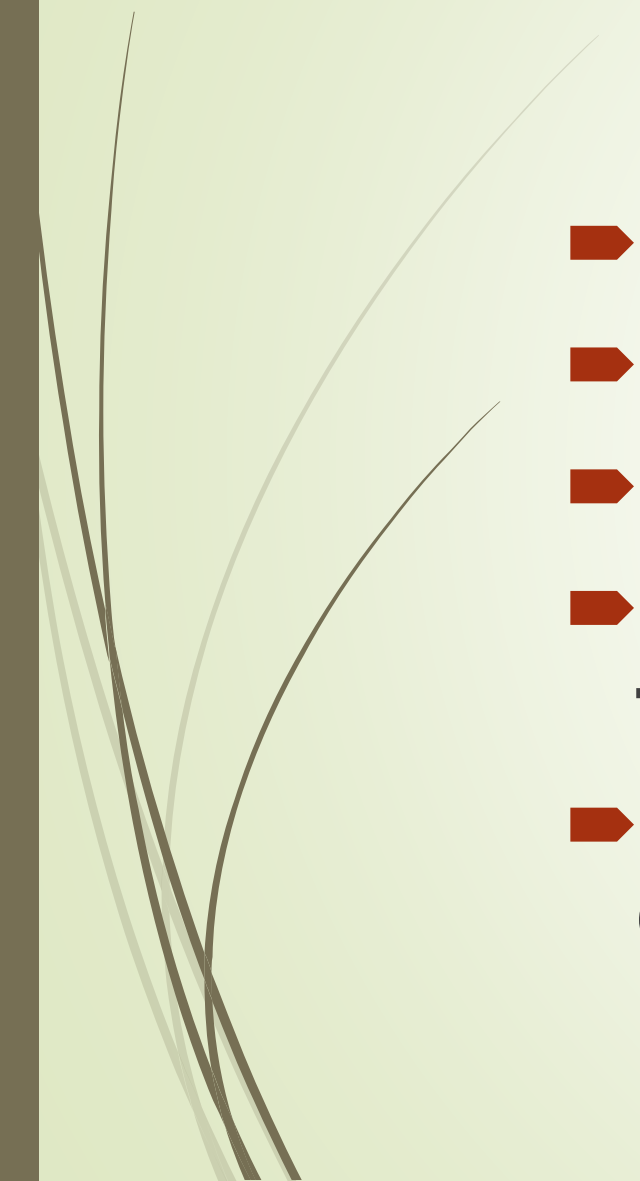
- 
- **We must keep our eyes focused on its main figure: Jesus Christ.**
 - **“Christ is the point in the circle from which the whole circle is drawn.”**
 - **John 5:39-40**
 - **Luke 24:44**
 - **Hebrews 1:1-2a**



- 
- We must not allegorize or spiritualize every part of the Bible to fit preconceived “types of Christ.”
 - We should not be too quick to apply a Christocentric interpretation without first understanding the context.
 - Rather, we need to carefully consider the **original author’s intention** before applying a Christocentric interpretation.



Group Exercise

- Read the book of Titus.
 - What words are the most repeated?
 - What is the main theme of the book?
 - Find a key verse of the book and give a title to the entire book.
 - How can you interpret this book through Christ?
- 



Application: How to apply the Word of God-Internalizing it in our lives

- 1. The purpose of Bible study**
- 2. The process of application**
 - A. Examine ourselves**
 - B. Find the root cause**
 - C. Gospel-centered application**
- 3. The fruit of application**
- 4. Some helpful guidelines**

Application: **The purpose of Bible study**

Why Study the Bible?



- To get a good grade
- To find relevant quotes that support their opinion
- To glean leadership, or
- To criticize the Bible
- To encourage
- To encounter Jesus as our Savior
- To grow in faith in him
- To do good works
- **2 Timothy 3:15-17**
- The word of God trains us in righteousness so that we grow to be more like Jesus

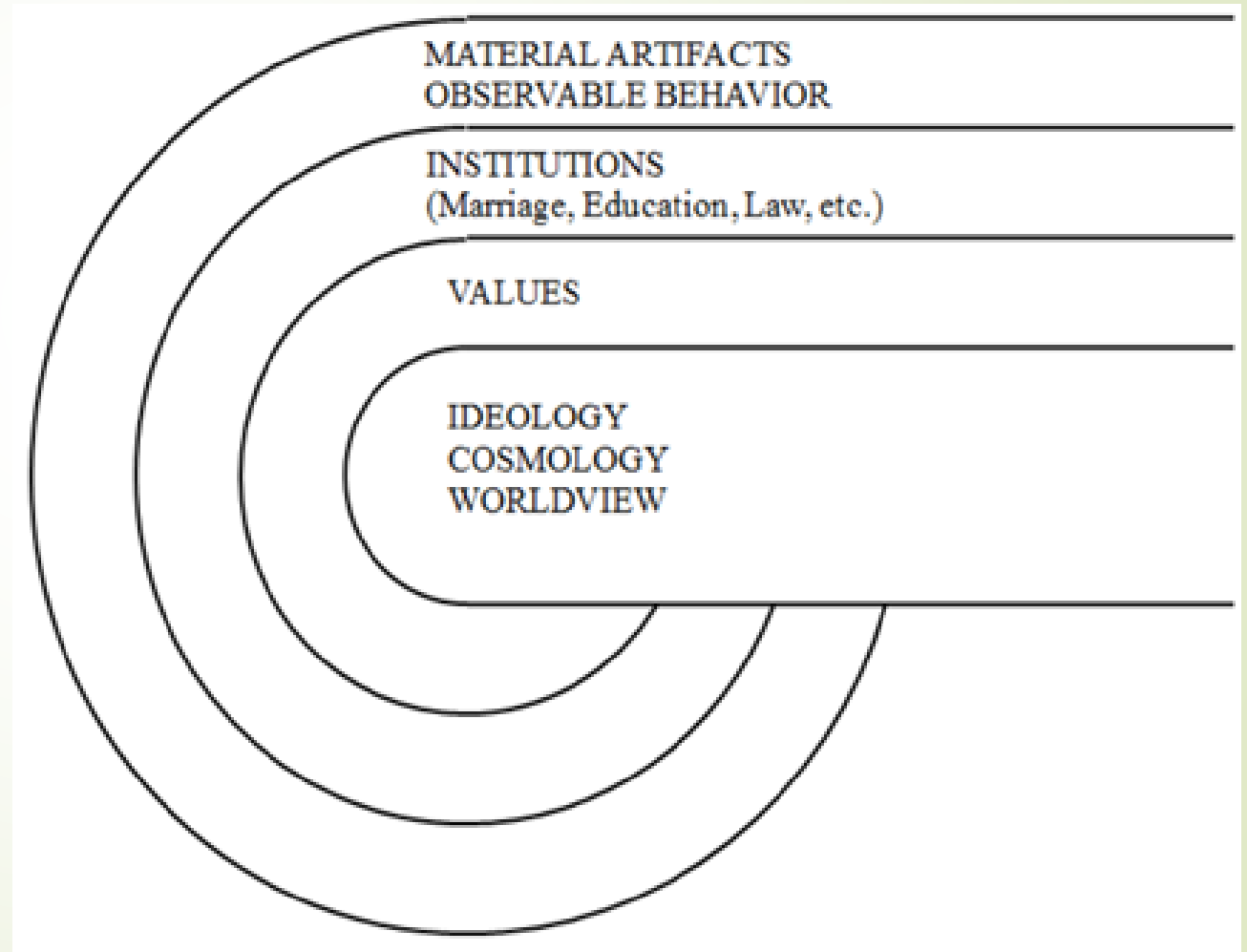
The process of application-

A. Examine ourselves

- ▶ We tend to apply the truths we learn to others, not ourselves. 2 Co 13:5a
- ▶ God knows everything (omniscient); he is everywhere (omnipresent) Ps 139:1-3; 1 Sam 16:7; Heb 4:13
- ▶ The Word of God is the ultimate mirror.
 - ▶ James 1:23-24
 - ▶ The Word of God not only reveals truth, it activates truth when the Holy Spirit uses it in a person's life.

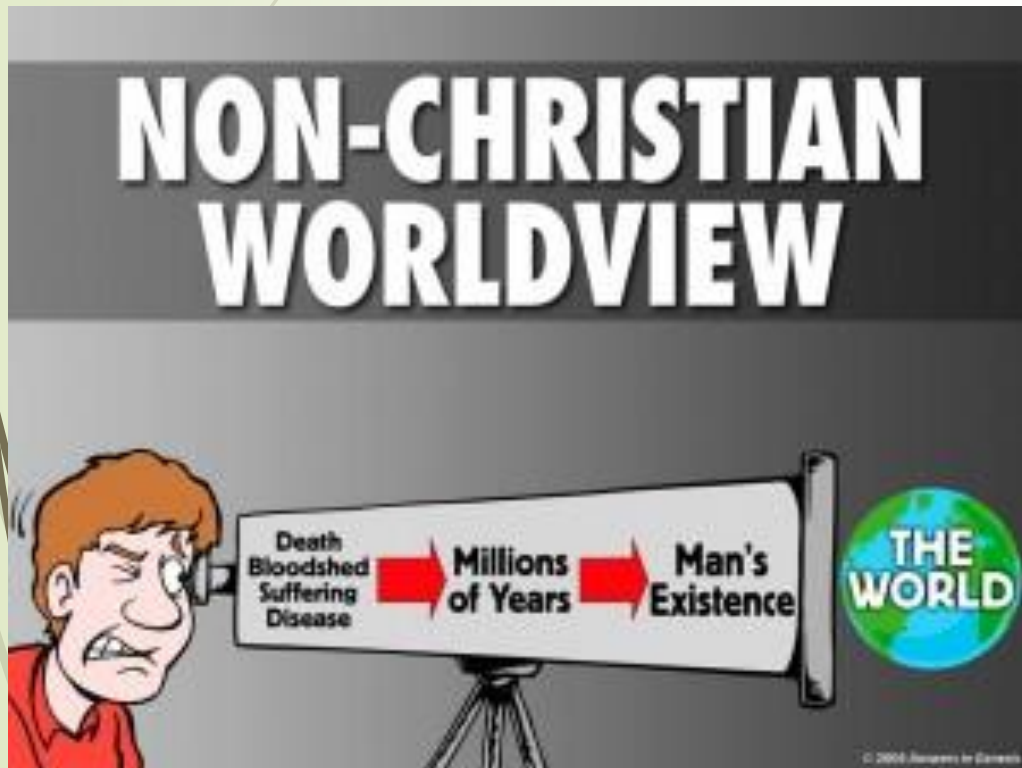
B. Find the Root cause of problems

“layers of culture”
by G. Linwood Barney

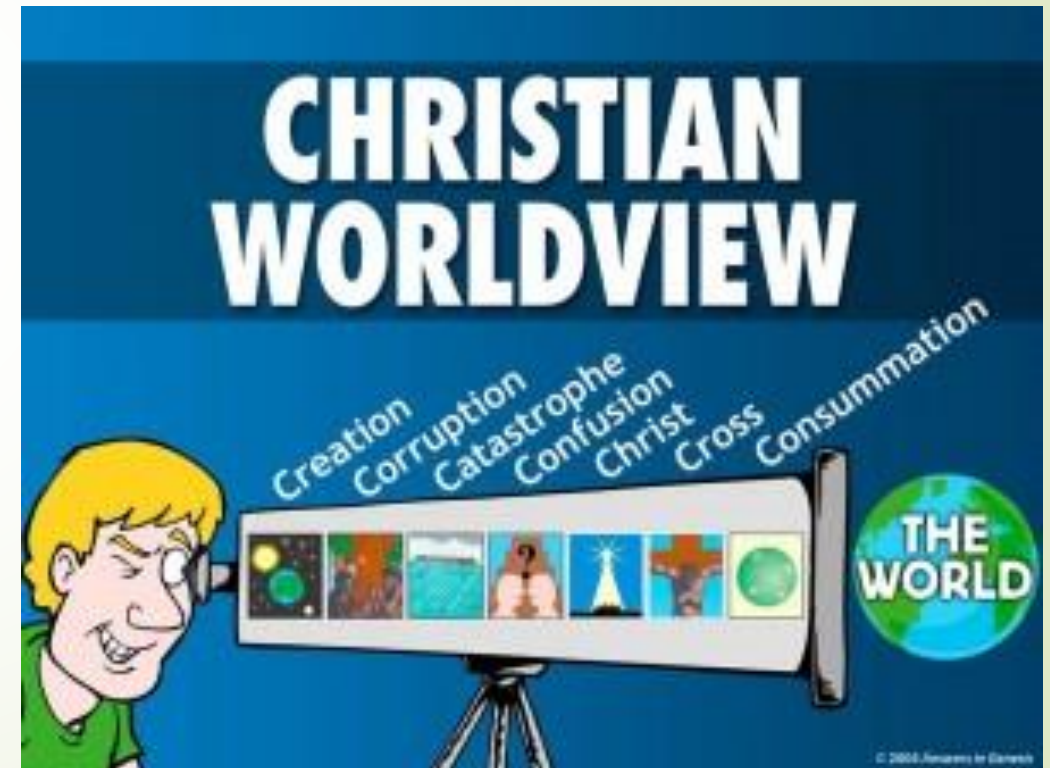


- 
- **Another root cause to be aware of are the wounds that people carry.**
- 

B. Find the Root cause of problems




VS





C. Gospel-centered application

- **How to solve the root causes of our problems?**
- **Two wrong approaches: (1) to despair and give up; (2) to solve it by ourselves.**
- **Right approach: To come to Jesus with repentance and faith.**

- 
- **The fundamental solution is always found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 - **As we follow Jesus, he helps us to apply the gospel in specific ways that though the real life problems of each person.**

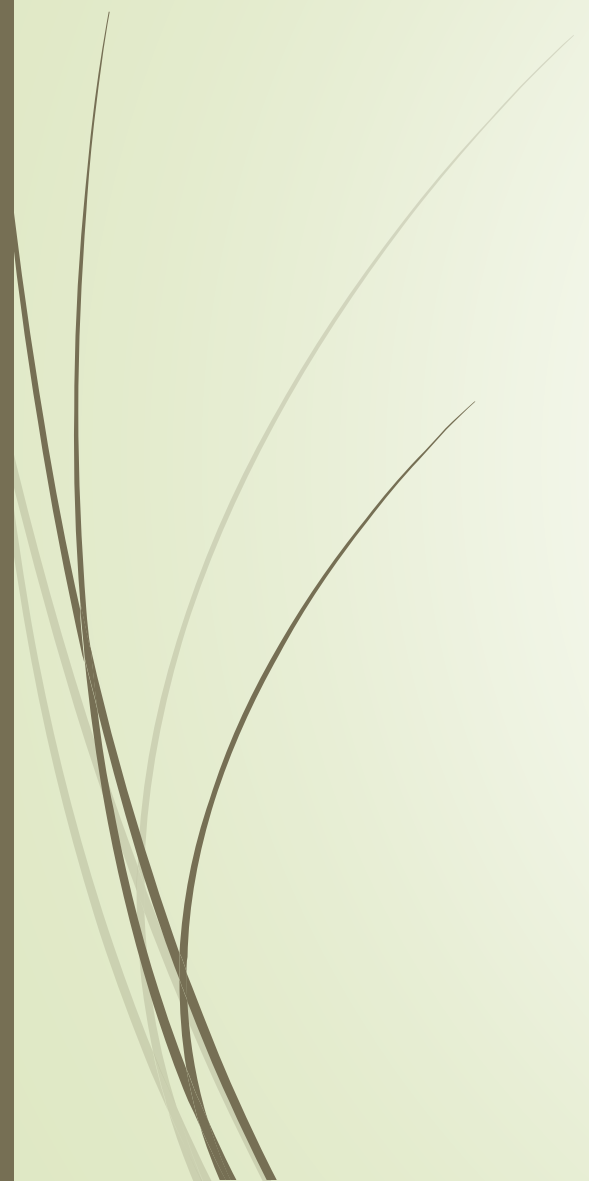
Application: **The fruit of application**

- ➔ **The Holy Spirit transforms us to be like Jesus (Ro 8:29)**
- ➔ **We bear good fruit (Gal 5:22-23)**
- ➔ **We become blessed people, like a tree planted by streams of water (Ps 1:2-3)**
- ➔ **True transformation occurs inside of people's heart.**
- ➔ **The wounded are healed and become healthy**

- 
- 
- **People find true joy and the meaning of life.**
 - **They enjoy God's blessing and become a blessing to others.**
 - **They reveal the beauty of the gospel and become a good influence**

Application: **Some helpful guidelines**

- **A. Memorize and write Bible verses**
- **B. Meditate on the word of God day and night**



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“...the morning star rises in your hearts”
(2Pe 1:19).





Application: **Some helpful guidelines**

- **C. Reflection writing and sharing**
- **D. Put the word into practice.**
- **E. Teaching the word to others**

Group Exercise

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves” (2 Co 13:5a)

- What bothers you in your life of faith?
- What do you think is the root cause of your problem? In two ways: 1) How has my cultural background affected my spiritual life? 2) What are my deep wounds?
- What do you think you need to improve spiritually?

Q&A

