

We believe discipleship is a direction  
not a destination.



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**Living by The Book**  
**Learn to Read & Study the Bible**

# Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- ~~INTRODUCTION~~

- ~~Week 1 Introduction and Overview (CH 1-4)~~

- OBSERVATION

- ~~Week 2 Observation (CH 5-7)~~

- ~~Week 3 Ten Strategies To Reading 1-5 (CH 8-12)~~

- ~~Week 4 Ten Strategies To Reading 6-10 (CH 13-18)~~



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- **Week 5** Six Things To Look For (CH 19-23)
- **Week 6** What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)

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- **Week 7** Interpretation Intro (CH 27-29)
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- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- **Week 11** Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



# Ten Strategies TO First-Rate Reading

- Read Thoughtfully
- Read Repeatedly
- Read Patiently
- Read Selectively
- Read Prayerfully

- Read Imaginatively
- Read Meditatively
- Read Purposefully
- Read Acquisitively
- Read Telescopically

# Read Imaginatively

Chapter 13



# Use Your Imagination

- When you read picture what you are reading
  - Where are you
  - What does it smell like
  - What does it feel like
  - Are you scared? Happy? Mad?
- Unfortunately



# But It's Boring

- Most people find reading the Bible boring
  - Why? Let's look at some ways the Bible is read
  - The group method
    - This is where a group Bible study breaks up the verses between multiple people
    - Everyone reads a verse or two from their Bible
      - Whichever version
      - It might look like this...






# The Group Method

- Acts 17:19-21
- (19) They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, and said, “May we learn about this new teaching you are presenting (CSB)
- (20) For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (KJV)
- (21) But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return to you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus. (NLT)



# The Group Method

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- (19) They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, and said, “May we learn about this new teaching you are presenting (CSB)
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- (21)  ans  
kee Oops, read the right verse but wrong chapter turn  
to y

# The Group Method

- The problem is
  - We read three verses
  - From three different translation
  - From three different people (voices)
  - And there was one mistake
- This creates confusion
  - And you have lost the group, and their interest



# VS. a Single Translation & Reader

<sup>19</sup> They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, and said, “May we learn about this new teaching you are presenting?” <sup>20</sup> Because what you say sounds strange to us, and we want to know what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners residing there spent their time on nothing else but telling or hearing something new.

Acts 17:19–21 (CSB)



# It's Hard To Read Imaginatively

- It is hard to read/listen with imagination when you are confused
  - Imagine someone reading these verses dressed up in period clothing
  - Acting out the scene
  - Smelling the surroundings



# Different Translation & Paraphrase

- Let's look at Hebrews 2:17-18 in the
  - New King James Version
  - New International Version
- Listen for the differences
  - Is one better than the other?
  - Is one more accurate?



"Why in all things it behooved him to be made like to his brothers, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted"... (NKJV)

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“For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”  
(NIV)



# Different Version Benefits

- Different versions can help bring clarity to your reading
- It can also help bring imagination to your reading
  - Specifically, you do not have to work at translating words you do not understand





# Rewrite The Text In Your Words

- <sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was **deeply distressed** when he saw that the city was full of idols. (CSB)
  - his soul was **exasperated** at the sight of a city (NTME)
  - his spirit was **provoked** (ESV)
  - his spirit was **stirred** (KJV)
- How might you say it?



# Change Your Location

- Maybe read outside, by a river, the ocean, forest
  - The sermon on the mount
    - Read that on a mount?
- The point is to strike the fire of your imagination
  - Make things come alive



# Read Meditatively

Chapter 14



# Reflect On What You Read

- To meditate here means to reflect on what you have read/learned
- The hard part here is
  - It takes time to meditate
- So why should I meditate on what I read?
  - Well, the Bible tells us to



# Joshua 1:8

Cause & Effect

- <sup>8</sup> This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it **day and night** so that you may carefully **observe** everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.
  - When are you to do it?
    - Always, when you wake up and when you fall asleep
  - How?
    - By doing what the Bible says not just knowing



# Psalm 1:1–2

- <sup>1</sup> How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!
- <sup>2</sup> Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction, and he **meditates** on it day and night.



# Psalm 119:97

<sup>97</sup> How I love your instruction!  
It is my **meditation** all day long.



# Psalm 19:14

<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth  
and the **meditation** of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.





# Meditate How

- Notice what meditate is and is not
  - Eastern philosophy says to empty your mind
    - Or to focus on one thing
- God tells us to meditate by
  - Filling our minds
  - Night and day (always)
  - With the Word of God



# What Does Meditation Look Like

- What do you meditate on now?
- When you are driving alone what do you do?
  - Listen to:
    - Music, Sports Radio, News, Books
  - A problem at work you need to deal with?
  - All of this is meditation



# What Does Meditation Look Like

- You are meditating or pondering things all the time
- But is it ever
  - What did the Bible mean when I read...
  - What does the Bible say about the fight I just had with my boss/wife



# Read Purposefully

Chapter 16



# Read The Bible Purposefully

- Purposeful reading looks for the aim of the author
- You need to find the purpose of what you are reading to better understand what you are reading
- How do I do that?
  - One way is looking at the structure of what is written



# Grammatical Structure

- Verbs
- Subject and Object
- Modifiers
- Prepositional Phrases
- Connectives



# Verbs

- The action words
- It tells us who is doing what
- Example
  - “Be filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18
  - Be filled is passive, it doesn’t say “Fill yourself with the Spirit”
  - We don’t fill ourselves; We open ourselves up



# Subject and Object

- The subject of a sentence does the acting, and the object is acted upon
- “Let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.” Philippians 2:3
  - Regard = verb
  - Each of you = subject
  - One another = object
- **You** are to regard **other people** as more important than you

Rewritten



# Modifiers

- Modifiers are descriptive words such as adjectives and adverbs
- <sup>19</sup> And my God will supply **all** your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19
  - **All** describes what?
    - Needs; not some, not most, all
    - Also notice needs, not wants
    - The words matter



# Prepositional Phrases

- Prepositions are the little words that tell you where the action is taking place
  - in, on, upon, through, to,...
- “**in** Christ”
- “**in** the beginning”
- “**by** the Spirit”
- “according **to** the Spirit”
- “**in** the flesh”
- “**by** faith”

# Connectives

- And, But, and Therefore can make a big difference
- “Draw near to God **and** He will draw near to you” (James 4:8)
  - Come **AND** see, is it a *list* or is it this *first then*
- Remember But in Acts 1:8? But what?
  - What’s important is to look before and after the **BUT**
- Therefore
  - Whenever you see a therefore, go back and see what it’s there for



# Literary Structure

What is literary structure? Think of a movie

1. Introduction of the characters and the setting
2. Committing of the crime, usually murder or robbery
3. Investigation by the good guys
4. Evasion by the bad guys
5. Crisis, car chase or shoot-out
6. Resolution, the bad guys are handcuffed, and the good guy gets the girl



# Literary Structure

- A few common structures
  - Biographical
  - Geographical
  - Historical
  - Chronological
  - Ideological



# Literary Structure

- **Biographical:** Typical found in narrative text
- It builds on a key person in a story
  - Like Genesis for Abraham, Isaac, Joseph
- **Geographical:** When the place is the focus of the story
  - Exodus is a good example
    - What was the place like
    - Who was in it



# Literary Structure

- **Historical:** Where the historical event are prominent in the story
  - Joshua is a good example
    - Joshua receives his charge from the Lord
    - Then the people cross the Jordan
    - Then they take Jericho
    - Then they face defeat at Ai
    - ...



# Literary Structure

- **Chronological:** Like Historical but is more focused on the order things happen
  - 1&2 Samuel are like this
  - You will see a lot of then this, then this, next that
- **Ideological:** This focuses on a specific idea(s)
  - Most of Paul's letters are this way
  - Once the idea (Faith, sin, Law, ...) is found the structure can be found more easily





# The Blocks Of Literary Structure

- The follow chart shows the building blocks used for the different structures we just covered



# The Laws of Structure

Law	Description	Examples
Cause & Effect	One event, concept, or action that causes another (key terms: therefore, so, then, as a result)	Mark 11:27–12:44; Romans 1:24–32; 8:18-30
Climax	A progression of events or ideas that climb to a certain high point before descending	Ex. 40:34–35; 2 Sam. 11; Mark 4:35–5:43
Comparison	Two or more elements that are alike or similar (key terms: like, as, too, also)	Ps.1:3–4; John 3:8, 12, 14; Heb. 5:1–10



# The Laws of Structure

Law	Description	Examples
Contrast	Two or more elements that are unlike or dissimilar (key terms: but, yet)	Ps. 73; Acts 4:32–5:11; Gal. 5:19–23
Explanation	The presentation of an idea or reason event followed by its interpretation	Dan. 2, 4, 5, 7–9; Mark 4:13–20; Acts 11:1–18
Interchange	When the action, conversation, or concept moves to another, then back again	Gen. 37–39; 1 Sam. 1–3; Luke 1–2



# The Laws of Structure

Law	Description	Examples
Introduction & Summary	Opening or concluding remarks on a subject or situation	Gen. 2:4–25; 3 Josh. 12; Matt. 6:1
Pivot or Hinge	A sudden change in the direction or flow of the context; a minor climax	2 Sam. 11–12; Matt. 12; Acts 2
Proportion	Emphasis indicated by the amount of space the writer devotes to a subject	Gen. 1–11; 12–50; Luke 9:51–19:27; Eph. 5:21–6:4
Purpose	A declaration of the author's intentions	Jn. 20:30–31; Acts 1:8; Titus 1:1

# The Laws of Structure

Law	Description	Examples
Question & Answer	The use of questions or questions and answers	Malachi; Mark 11:27–12:44 Luke 11:1–13
Repetition	Terms or phrases used two or more times	Ps. 136; Matt. 5:21–48 Heb. 11
Specific to General, General to Specific	Progression of thought from a single example to a general principle, or vice versa	Matt. 6:1–18; Acts 1:8 James 2

# Read Acquisitively

Chapter 15



# Sundays Sermon

- How much do you remember from the
  - Sunday sermon?
  - Life Group lesson?
- What was the sermon from last Sunday?
  - Could you tell someone about it in detail?
  - Why or why not?



# Hear, See, Do

- “I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand.”
  - 10% of what you **hear** you remember
  - 50% of what you **hear** and **see** you remember
  - 90% of what you **hear, see, and do** you remember
- If we want to acquire knowledge, Biblical knowledge
  - We need to change the way learn





# Be Interactive

- When you study how can you do more than just read
- How can you do the do?
  - Write down in your own words what you are reading
  - Journal about what you have read
  - Act out with your kids a Bible story
  - Prepare a lesson for your family
    - Ask if you can teach a lesson for your Life Group



# Read Telescopically

Chapter 17



# It's a Puzzle

- Telescopic reading means viewing the parts in light of the whole







# Four Ways to Read Telescopically

- **Look for the connectives**
  - Look for the connecting words or linking words
    - And, But, Therefore
  - These words demand you zoom out and look around
- **Pay attention to the context**
  - What is the context of the verse(s) I am reading
  - How does it fit into what is around it



# Four Ways to Read Telescopically

- Evaluate the passage in light of the book as a whole
  - Look at what the whole book is communicating
  - For example Mark is broken into two pieces
    - Mark 1-8:26      The person of Christ
    - Mark 8:31-16:20      The purpose of Christ
    - Mark 8:27-30      “Who do people say that I am?”
      - This is the hinge
      - Are you in the person or purpose section



# Four Ways to Read Telescopically

- **Look at the historical context of the book**
  - Where does the book I am studying fit into history?
    - Why are certain kings, governors, ... discussed?
    - Do these facts effect the understanding of the text?





# Homework

Prepare Your Notes



# This Week

- Last week you looked at Philemon
  - This week write or type out notes of what you learned in Philemon
  - Organize what you read so you can teach it to someone else
  - Bring your notes to class or show them to your spouse, kids, friend,...



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**Observation: What do I see?**

**Interpretation: What does it mean?**

**Application: How does it work?**

