

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **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)



Four Steps of Application

Chapter 42



A Little Physics

- What is Newton's first law of motion?
 - An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force
- What does that have to do with Bible Study? Specifically, Application?



What Direction Are You Headed?

- You are that object
 - Are you at rest?
 - Are you in motion?
 - What direction are you headed
- What is it going to take to get you in motion?
- What is it going to take to change your direction?
- Once you are in motion you will stay in motion
 - Unless something opposite opposes that motion



The Four Steps of Application

- There are four steps that will help you get moving and direct your application of Gods Word
 1. Know
 2. Relate
 3. Meditate
 4. Practice



Step 1: Know

- If you want to apply the Bible, you need to know two things
 - The text
 - Yourself



Know the Text

- How do you go about knowing the text of scripture?
- At this point we should all know this part, but let's review
 1. Observation: What do I see?
 2. Interpretation: What does it mean?
 3. Application: How does it work?
- These are the first steps, in this order



Know Yourself

Pay close attention to your life and your teaching;

1 Timothy 4:16

- First, pay attention to your life
- Second, pay attention to the telling of biblical truth to others
 - Why do you think that is?
 - Because if you don't know yourself, it's difficult to help other people apply the Bible to their lives



Do You Know Yourself?

- A big reason application is hard and not more effective in our lives is because we don't know ourselves
- Let us ask ourselves two questions
 - What are your assets?
 - What do you have going for you?
 - What are your liabilities?
 - What are your limitations?
 - What is your greatest hindrance to growth?



We Don't Know What We Need

- List three of your assets and three of your liabilities
- Now put these two together
 - If you know your assets
 - It will develop your confidence
 - It tell you what God has done for you
 - If you know your liabilities
 - It will develop your faith
 - It will tell you what God needs to develop in you



“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you”

Romans 12:3



Your Opinion Of Yourself

- Sometimes we have an exaggerated opinion of ourselves
 - Paul warns us not to have a “puffed-up” opinion of ourselves, You aren’t *that* good
- On the other hand
- We can have a distorted or negative opinion of ourselves
 - Don’t dump on yourself, this is negative self talk
 - The devil does plenty of this for us



Step 2: Relate

- Once we know the truth of the Word
 - We must relate it to our experience
- What does this mean?
 - Name some of the relationships you have
- Spouse
- Kids
- Friends
- Coworkers
- Neighbors
- Satan
- God
- Sexual
- Financial



Our Relationships (Relate)

- Considering what you now know
 - Through Bible study, Observation, Interpretation
- How does God want to change your relationships
- Prof. Hendricks refers to this as
 - “The Working Word”
 - How does the Word of God work in your life?
- Let’s look at a few of those relationships



A New Relationship to God

- He is now your heavenly Father
- You have a personal and intimate relationship with Him
 - He sent His son to die for you
 - He sent the Holy Spirit to live in you
- What else have you learned about your relationship with God in your Bible study that changes how you should be?



A New Relationship To Yourself

- You develop a new self-image
 - If God loves you
 - If Christ died for you
 - If the Holy Spirit has empowered you
 - That means you have tremendous value and significance
 - Your life takes on new meaning and purpose



A New Relationship to Other People

- You discover that other people are not the enemy
- They may be victims of the enemy
 - But they are the people that God has placed in your life
 - He calls you to treat them with love
- What does the Bible say about how your relationship with others should change?
 - Love your neighbor as yourself



A New Relationship To The Enemy

- Once you come to Christ, you change sides in the battle
 - Before, you were just a pawn of the enemy
 - But now you discover that you're on God's side
 - The enemy is not happy about this
 - That's why your Christian life will remain a constant battle
- How will your life change because of this changed relationship



How to Change These Relationships (Relate)

- The Word
 - Exposes your sin
 - Gives you God's promises
 - Gives you God's commands
 - Gives you examples to follow
- Do your relationships matchup with the truths shown to you in Gods Word?



Step 3: Meditate

- Meditation is not a game of mental gymnastics that seek to empty the mind, not eastern meditation
- True meditation is pondering the truth with a view of letting it help and readjust our lives
 - So HOW do I meditate on the truth?
 - By memorizing scripture
 - Filling your mind with Gods Word



Meditation Soup (Meditate)

- I make a Beef Bolognese sauce for special occasions
 - It takes all day to do make
 - The trick is to reduce it to where there is no liquid left
 - Then add the next component and simmer
- When it is done it is an extremely rich and flavorful sauce



Meditation Soup (Meditate)

- This is what meditation is like
 - Fill your mind with Gods Word
 - Through memorization and study
 - Let it simmer there, reducing
 - Keep adding more ingredients, Gods Word
- When you are done you should have a delicious meal
- What is simmering in your mind right now?



Step 4: Practice

- You need to put the truths you have found into practice
 - The Word of God is not a banana split
 - No nutritional value and nothing but sweet
 - The word of God is a meat and potatoes meal
 - Full of nutrition and lasting energy
- We need to fill up on the Word of God
 - Then go use that energy in this world



Customized Christianity

Chapter 43



One Interpretation, Many Applications

- Interpretation is one; application is many
 - That is, there is only one ultimate interpretation of a passage of Scripture
 - But that passage can be applied in different ways to different situations
 - In other words, the truth of God's Word is adaptable
 - The same truth addresses a variety of circumstances
 - The truth doesn't change; the circumstances do



People are Different

- Just as circumstances vary thus changing the application
 - People vary, changing the application
 - NOT THE TRUTH!
 - The application
 - Our truths are the same
 - The way that truth is applied in your life may be different



To Be Clear

- I am not saying that you can apply Scripture any way you want, and I can apply it any way I want
- Nor am I saying that any of us can apply Scripture selectively
 - Only applying the things that appeal to us
 - But neglecting the things that don't appeal to us
- The truths of God's Word apply universally to every believer



For Example

- For example, all of us are to love our neighbors
 - We are to show that love to all people
 - Love should be in every believer
 - But the way that love is expressed and applied in your life will probably look a bit different than the way it is expressed, applied, in my life
 - Through actions, words, attitude,...

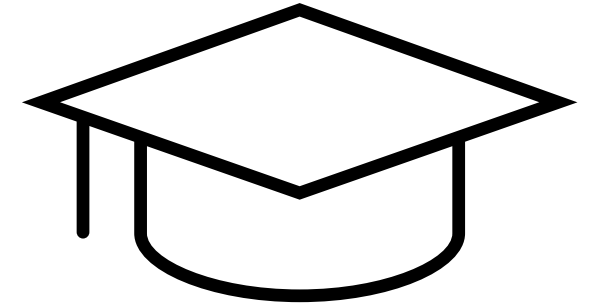


Individuality Affects Application

- There are at least four ways where our individuality affects Application
 1. Education
 2. Emphasis
 3. Execution
 4. Excellence



Individuals Education



- This is not how much education you have
 - But how you are educated, how best you learn
 - How you learn is not based on intelligence, but on a person's giftedness
- For Example
 - The formal classroom
 - Some learn by reading, memorizing and testing

Learner Examples

- Doing and Trying
 - These people must get their hands on whatever they are supposed to learn
 - They need to get their hands dirty
- Group Participation
 - Some need a group of some sort to learn



Learner Examples

- Tutor/Mentor/Coach
 - A person to give immediate feedback, encouragement, and accountability
- Loners
 - Those that work best alone
 - The leave me alone people



Simon Peter and Paul

- Simon Peter was a fisherman
 - He was taught faith by example, by a hands-on example
 - Jesus said let your nets down on the other side of the boat
 - Really? I've been fishing here longer than you, but ok
 - Simon needed physical action to receive the lesson
- Now Paul



Simon Peter and Paul

- Paul on the other hand
 - He was a scholar through and through
 - He learned from the best teachers
 - He read and studied day and night
- Even Peter found Paul a difficult man to understand because of his writings
- Paul learned best through reading and writing



Emphasis/Expertise

- We all have areas we are strong in, naturally or developed
 - These areas we notice more and focus on
- A person good at planning
 - Will tend to notice the portions of the Word where plans are being discussed
- The person who loves concepts
 - Will tend to focus on the many concepts that Scripture gives



Emphasis/Expertise

- The one who instinctively sees systems and networks
 - Will perceive the many systems in Scripture—systems of government, of cities, of trade, of relationships
- The person who has an intuitive grasp of how people tick
 - Will emphasize the human dynamics and emotions of a passage
- These are just a few examples



Emphasis/Expertise

- This is why studying alone only is a bad thing
 - Being part of a Bible study allows for others to bring their:
 - Expertise
 - Insite
 - Wisdom
 - To you and your understanding



Execution

- The Bible commands us to do many things
 - The question might be how best to execute the commands
- Again, this is where your individualism comes in
- Take Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”
 - How do you do this?



How to Execute

- How do we make disciples?
 - There is no one way!
 - We all bring something different to the execution of Gods will



How to Make Disciples

- Some will do it by teaching
- Some will do it by modeling and mentoring
- Some will influence people; they proclaim the gospel in a straightforward way
- Some will build relationships and live out the gospel
- Some will bring their friends to those better at explaining the gospel
- Some will participate in teams that do mission work



How to Execute

- God made us unique so we would bring a variety of strengths to accomplishing His will
 - Same command, different ways of executing it



Our Excellence

- We will tend to excel in our areas of strength
- But struggle in areas where we lack strength
 - We have been given areas in our life where we just do better
 - And areas where, well we just stink
- We need to take this into account when we apply Gods Word in our lives



What Do You Mean?

- How do we do that?
 - Take the example of scripture memorization
 - A pastor gives a stirring message on how scripture memorization transformed his life
 - You all need to memorize 1,000 verse this year!
 - That's amazing I must do it!
 - But I can't remember my kids names half the time!



Be Careful

- Is scripture memorization important? Yes
 - If you don't memorize a 1,000 verses this year, are you a bad Christian? No
- We need to be careful that we don't imply or state as fact that our application of the Word is the best or only way
 - Share the truth (interpretation) but give examples of various applications



Customized Christianity

- I hope you understand now what customized Christianity is
 - It is amazing how the Word of God can fit into so many different people's lives
 - No matter your sex, ethnicity, cultural, education, ...
 - Gods word applies to you
 - Start with the TRUTH (Interpretation)
 - There is an application of that truth that is specific to your life



Nine Questions to Ask

Chapter 44



Applicative Questions

- When we studied observation, we talked about bombarding the text with questions
 - Who, what, where, cultural, geographic, etc...
- We need to do the same with our application
- There are nine applicational questions you can ask whenever you come to the Word of God



Applicative Question #1

- Is there an example for me to follow?
 - The Bible is full of characters, characters with real stories of how we should or should not be
 - We can draw comparisons between our lives and theirs
- Really? The life of Abraham? Who lived thousands of years ago?
 - Abraham pleaded for a wicked city, do I have that kind of compassion?



Applicational Question #2

- Is there a sin to avoid?
 - The Bible can expose the sin in our lives that we don't immediately recognize
 - You might read about temptation, lust, idols
 - Are there things in your life that look a lot like what you are reading



Applicative Question #3

- Is there a promise to claim?
 - Some promises are between
 - God and specific individuals (Not us)
 - God and groups of people, such as the nation of Israel (not us)
 - God and the church (That's me)
 - God and “the righteous” in Proverbs (That's me)



Applicative Question #4

- Is there a prayer to repeat?
 - There are many prayers in the Bible such as:
 - David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51
 - Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish (Jonah 2)
 - Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46–55
 - Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in Ephesians 3:14–21
- What is there in these prayers that I need to be praying?



Applicative Question #5

- Is there a command to obey?
- The Bible is full of commands for us
- James has 54 commands alone
 - Everyone should be ¹ quick to listen, ² slow to speak, and ³ slow to anger, James 1:19
- I hear this and I say it, “How can I know God’s will?”
 - Look for His commands and you will find His will

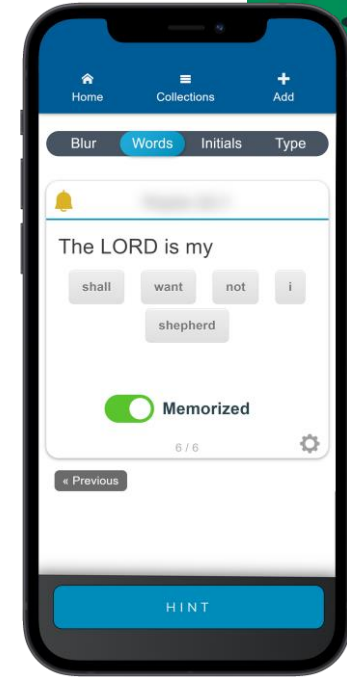
Applicative Question #6

- Is there a condition to meet?
 - Many of Gods promises have conditions
 - Not all but many
 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you” John 15:7
 - “If you” this is a conditional statement



Applicational Question #7

- Is there a verse to memorize?
 - First, all scripture is worth memorizing
 - But some may speak more deeply to you, memorize it, meditate on it
- There are several tools to help with memorization
 - Topical Memory System
 - Verse Locker app



Applicative Question #8

- Is there an error to mark?
- This is where you face the tough part, I made a mistake
 - As you read, have you been applying the Bible's truths wrong? Look for:
 - What doctrines and truths is this passage teaching?
 - What theological errors is it exposing?
 - What changes do I need to make in my thinking in order to bring it in line with what the Scriptures teach?

Applicative Question #9

- Is there a challenge to face?
 - As you read be prepared to face challenges by the Word
 - Do you need to start new habits? Prayer, service, etc.
 - Do you need to mend relationships?
 - Do you need to make an apology?
 - Some challenges might be immediate
 - Other will be long term challenges you need to stick too



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