

- The pragmatic approach.
 - ▶ What **works** best for me?
- The superficial approach.
 - ▶ What does this **mean** to me?

A DEPENDABLE APPROACH TO BIBLE STUDY...

Imagine going on a mission trip...

- Observe their home: What do I **see**?
- Understand their home: What does it **mean**?
- Bring it back home: How does it **relate**?
- Apply it in your home: What do I **do**?

Let's take a trip into the Word...

- Observe their home: What do I see?
 - ▶ This step involves **exploration**.
 - ▶ Discover what the text says.
 - ▶ A question of **content**.
- Understand their home: What does it mean?
 - ▶ This step involves **interpretation**.
 - ▶ Discover what the text means.
 - ▶ A question of **context**.
- Bring it back home: How does it relate?
 - ▶ This step involves **implications**.
 - ▶ Discover how the text travels.
 - ▶ A question of **connection**.
- Apply it in your home: What do I do?
 - ▶ This step involves **application**.
 - ▶ Discover how the text transforms.
 - ▶ A question of **conduct**.

OBSERVE THEIR HOME: What Do I See?

Two Revolutionary Disciplines for Reading the Bible...

- Learn to **listen**.
- Learn to **look**.

Learn to Listen...

- Listen **thoughtfully**.
 - ▶ Bible study is not a mindless activity.
- Listen thoroughly.
 - ▶ If we want to understand the Bible, we've got to bombard it with questions.

- ▶ **Who?**
 - + Wrote it?
 - + Originally read it?
 - + Are the main characters?
- ▶ **What?**
 - + Is happening in the text?
 - + Is wrong with the picture?
 - + Is the author saying?
- ▶ **Where?**
 - + Is the writer?
 - + Are the original readers?
 - + Is the text taking place?
- ▶ **When?**
 - + Was it written?
 - + Did the events take place?
- ▶ **Why?**
 - + Is the author writing this?
 - + Is this included in Scripture?
 - + Did the events happen the way they did?
 - + Did the author say what he said?
- Listen repeatedly.
 - ▶ Read the text over and over and over and over... you get the point!
- Listen **patiently**.
 - ▶ Be patient with the text.
 - ▶ Be patient with yourself.
- Listen **imaginatively**.
 - ▶ See the sights, smell the smells, and experience the emotions.
- Listen meditatively.
 - ▶ Take time to **reflect**.
 - ▶ Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Just as you do not analyze the words of someone you love, but accept them as they are said to you, accept the word of Scripture and ponder it in your heart, as Mary did. That is all. That is meditation."

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

Then you will be prosperous and successful."

(Joshua 1:8, NIV)

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."

(Psalm 1:1-2, NIV)

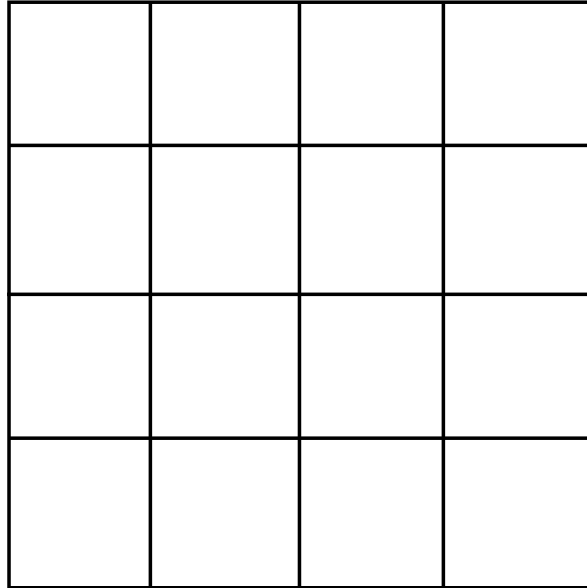
"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."

(Psalm 119:97, NIV)

- Listen **purposefully**.
 - ▶ We want our lives transformed by the heart of God through His Word!

Learn to Look...

- The art of Bible reading is **seeing**.
- How many squares do you see below? (**There are 30 squares below.**)



- Look for what the Word **emphasizes**.
 - ▶ Verbs
 - ✦ How does the author depict the action of the text?
 - ✦ Is the verb past, **present**, or future?

“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,”
(Ephesians 1:11, NIV)

- ✦ Is the verb **imperitive**?

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19, NIV)

- ✦ Is the verb active or **passive**?

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
(Genesis 12:1-3, NIV)

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”
(Ephesians 5:18, NIV)

*“ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”
(Colossians 3:1, NIV)*

▶ **Space**

- ✦ Is the author devoting concentrated attention to a certain theme, character, event, etc.?
- ✦ Genesis 1-11, 12-50.
- ✦ Matthew
 - Of 1,062 verses, at least **342** of them (1/3 of the book) give us teachings from Jesus.
- ✦ Ephesians
 - 1-3: Explanation of Salvation.
 - 4-6: Application of Salvation.

▶ **Purpose** Statement

- ✦ Does the author describe why he says something or why something happens?
- ✦ Look for that, in order that, so that, to, or for.

*“See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”
(Deuteronomy 4:5-6, NIV)*

*“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
(Psalm 119:11, NIV)*

““For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”
(John 15:16, NIV)*

*“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. “
(John 20:30-31, NIV)*