

Session Three

I. REVIEW

A. 5 Laws of Bible Study

B. Law of Observation: Look for...

1. "Fundamental Questions"

2. "Key Words"

3. "Repeated Key Words"

4. "CREEP"

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application
- Correlation
- Communication

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?

Ⓞ Commands?

Ⓞ Rebukes?

Ⓞ Exhortation?

Ⓞ Exaggerations?

Ⓞ Promises?

In practicing the **Law of Observation**,

we are not yet asking what does the passage mean...

Observation asks, "What does the passage say?" (What do I see?)

Cause/Effect Practice:

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Cause?

Effect?

John 3:16

"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."

Cause?

Effect?

II. OBSERVATION: LOOK FOR...

New things to observe (look for, find) in the Biblical text.

A. "Cause/Effect"

1. Often a **cause** will be declared and then the stated **effect** of that cause will be given.

Proverbs 15:1

*A gentle answer
turns away wrath...*

CAUSE? _____

EFFECT? _____

*...but a harsh word
stirs up anger.*

CAUSE? _____

EFFECT? _____

2. Practice

Romans 6:23

*For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal
life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

CAUSE? _____

EFFECT? _____

Do you see two cause/effects?

More Observational Principles

OBSERVE...

- see
- perceive
- notice
- detect
- look at
- examine
- discover

Closely related to
"Cause/Effect" is
Reasons or Results
for Doing Things;
look for...

"if... then"
"because... then"

Comparison Practice

Psalm 1:1-3

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. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

What is the man like?

What does the comparison suggest about man and life choices?

Comparisons

Proverbs 25:11-14

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

¹²*Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.*

¹³*Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters.*

¹⁴*Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give.*

NOTE: We are not yet interpreting (observations first)...but what do these comparisons ("similes") suggest about the meaning of each proverb?

B. Comparisons/Contrasts

1. Comparisons:

Focus on how things are similar (items, ideas, people compared to others).

Proverbs 25:26

*Like a muddied spring or a polluted well
is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.*

2. Practice:

James 3:3-6 compares the tongue to three things...

Read the passage carefully; underline tongue and circle the comparisons:

³*When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.* ⁴*Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.*

⁵*Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.*

⁶*The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

More Observational Principles

Figures of Speech

SIMILE:

a comparison using “like” or “as”

Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passerby who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

—PROVERBS 26:17

METAPHOR:

a comparison not using “like” or “as”

The Lord is my rock,
my fortress and my deliverer...

—PSALM 18:2

Contrast Practice

Psalm 1:1-6

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. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (1-3)

⁴Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (4-6)

What is the contrast?

What does it suggest about man and life choices?

3. Contrasts:

Focus on how things are different (items, ideas, people contrasted to others).

Proverbs 14:31

*He who oppresses the poor
shows contempt for their Maker,
but whoever is kind to
the needy honors God.*

James 4:6

*God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.*

4. Practice:

Note 1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

What is the major contrast?

Are there other contrasts?

**More
Observational
Principles**

Contrasts
look for “but”..

(often an important
interpretive point)

The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.”

But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God.

—2 KINGS 17:13-14

Historical Context

2 Kings 17:13

The northern kingdom of Israel was warned by the Lord to “turn from your evil ways.”

Israel responded to that warning in 2 Kings 17:14-17.

Practice:

Underline and number in the following passage as many different ways/practices that characterize Israel’s rebellion to the Lord’s warning.

Note that this is a “list” of rebellious practices.

2 Kings 17:14-17

But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God. ¹⁵ They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, “Do not do as they do,” and they did the things the LORD had forbidden them to do.

¹⁶ *They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal. ¹⁷ They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.*

5. Lists:

Often in Scripture there will be a list of several things presented...

Are they in some kind of order?

Are they grouped in a special way?

Are they progressing to a climax?

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:19-21

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

6. Practice:

Read **1 John 2:15-17**

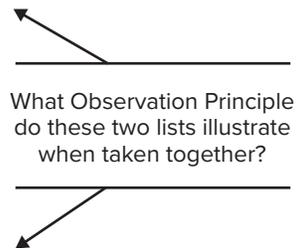
Number the things in the world in this list.

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

**More
Observational
Principles**

Tip:
...when identifying lists, often it is helpful to number these in your Bible.



What Observation Principle do these two lists illustrate when taken together?

Key Words

Read the following passages carefully. Circle the important word(s) that are most important to understanding the text.

John 17:3 NASB

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

I Corinthians 15:1-2 NASB

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

Key Repeated Words

Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ *Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

⁸ *“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents...”*

Key Repeated Words

Matthew 5:3-12 NASB

³ *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

⁵ *“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.*

⁶ *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

⁷ *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

⁸ *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

⁹ *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

¹⁰ *“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*