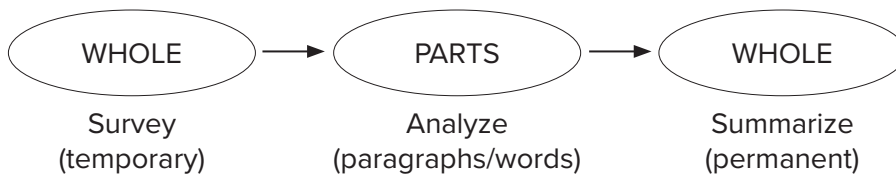


Session Five

THE BIG PICTURE

I. REVIEW



II. A WORD ABOUT INTERPRETATION

A. The Golden Rule of Interpretation

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise. —D. L. Cooper

1. Definition: The Literal Method of Interpretation

The literal method of interpretation is that method that gives to each word the same exact basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary, customary usage, whether employed in writing, speaking, or thinking.

2. If the words are employed in their natural and concrete meaning, the sense which they express is the *proper literal* sense; whereas, if they are used with a figurative and derived meaning, the sense, though still literal, is usually called the *metaphorical* or *figurative* sense. See examples comparing John 1:6 and 1:29, as given in the sidebar.



ONE SENSE

“Thou shalt understand, therefore, that the Scripture hath but one sense, which is the literal sense. And that literal sense is the root and ground of all, and the anchor that never faileth, whereunto if thou cleave thou canst never err nor go out of the way. And if thou leave the literal sense, thou canst not but go out of the way.”

WILLIAM TYNDALE
1500s

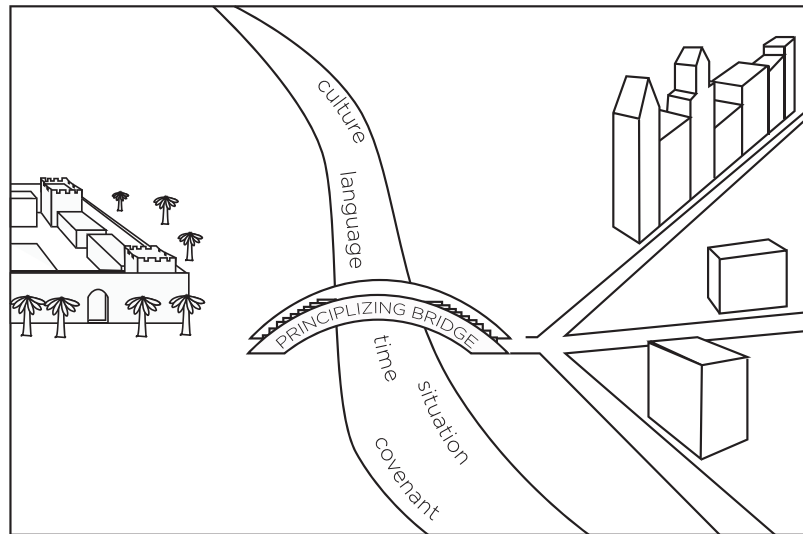
John 1:6 LITERAL

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:29 METAPHORICAL

The next day John saw Jesus coming to Him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Bridging from the Biblical Context to the Present Day



Duvall and Hays, *Grasping God's Word*, 24

PASSAGE
(Historical)

PRINCIPLE
(Timeless)

PRACTICE
(Timely)

- B. The Duvall and Hays Diagram, “Crossing of Bridge,” as seen on the previous page reminds us of the bigger picture.

Exercise:

What hermeneutical principle (principles of interpretation) could be drawn from the diagram?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What We Remember/True Learning

10%	of what we READ
20%	of what we HEAR
30%	of that DEMONSTRATED
50%	of HEARING with DEMONSTRATION
70%	of hearing and demonstration requiring a WRITTEN RESPONSE
90%	all of the above plus personal APPLICATION and PRACTICE

III. A WORD ABOUT APPLICATION

Application is the process that leads to life transformation—the exercise of personal faith in living out the truth of Scripture regardless of life's circumstances, emotions, or cultural trends. Application takes the truths learned through scriptural observation and interpretation and weaves them into the “warp and woof” of everyday life in such a way that the very fabric of daily life is changed.

A. THE BIBLICAL APPEAL

The writer of Hebrews appeals to us...

Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus...

James, the half-brother of Jesus exhorts us...

James 1:22-25 (ESV)

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

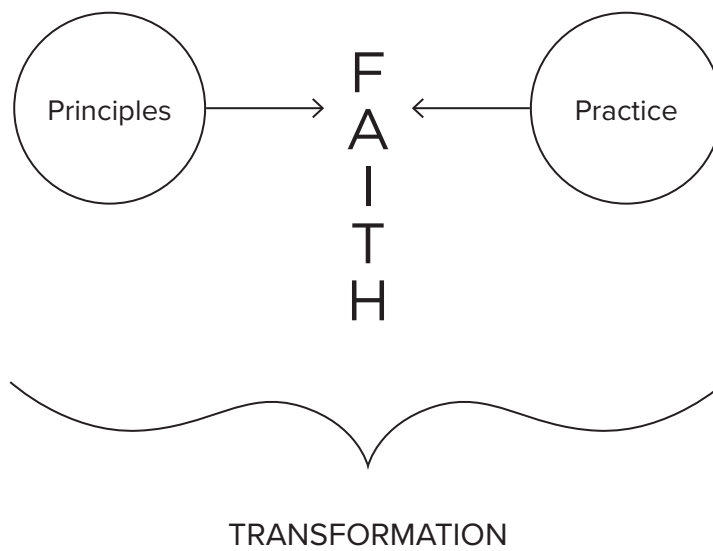
Jesus Himself asks...

Luke 6:46-49 (ESV)

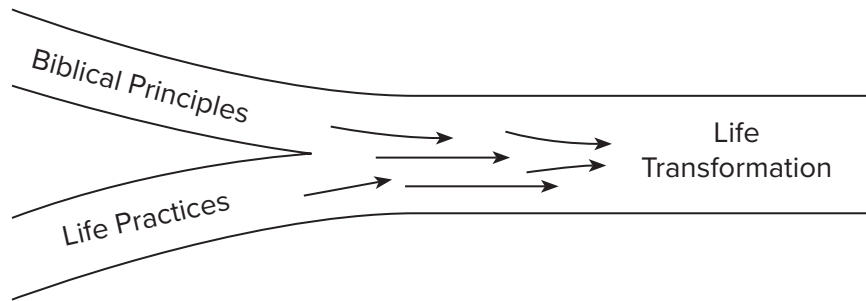
“Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

“Understanding requires APPLICATION. Application may be the last phase, but it certainly is not the least.”

—LINDSAY OLESBERG
The Bible Study Handbook



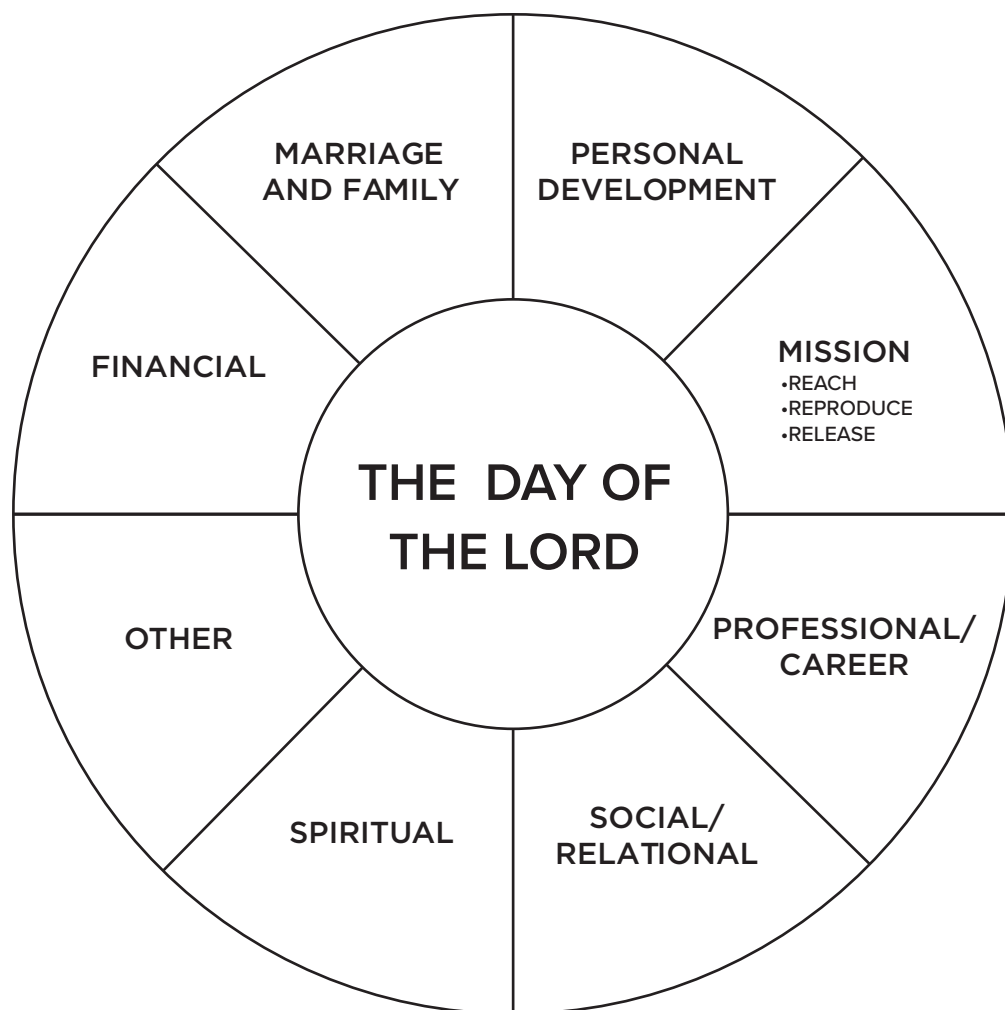
Ultimately, application occurs when timely Biblical principles and life practices merge...



“...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

—JESUS CHRIST
MATTHEW 5:16 NIV

The Circle of Life



B. APPLICATION AIDS

Regarding application, someone once observed...

“We too often seek to apply
all the truth
to everyone
all the time.

But in doing so, we most often apply
none of the truth
to no one
none of the time.”

In other words, we generalize truth to such an extent that it applies to no one and, least of all, to ME!

Therefore, if I am going to let the Scriptures reach their final destination (my personal life transformation). I need some application aids that will help me avoid rationalization and denial.

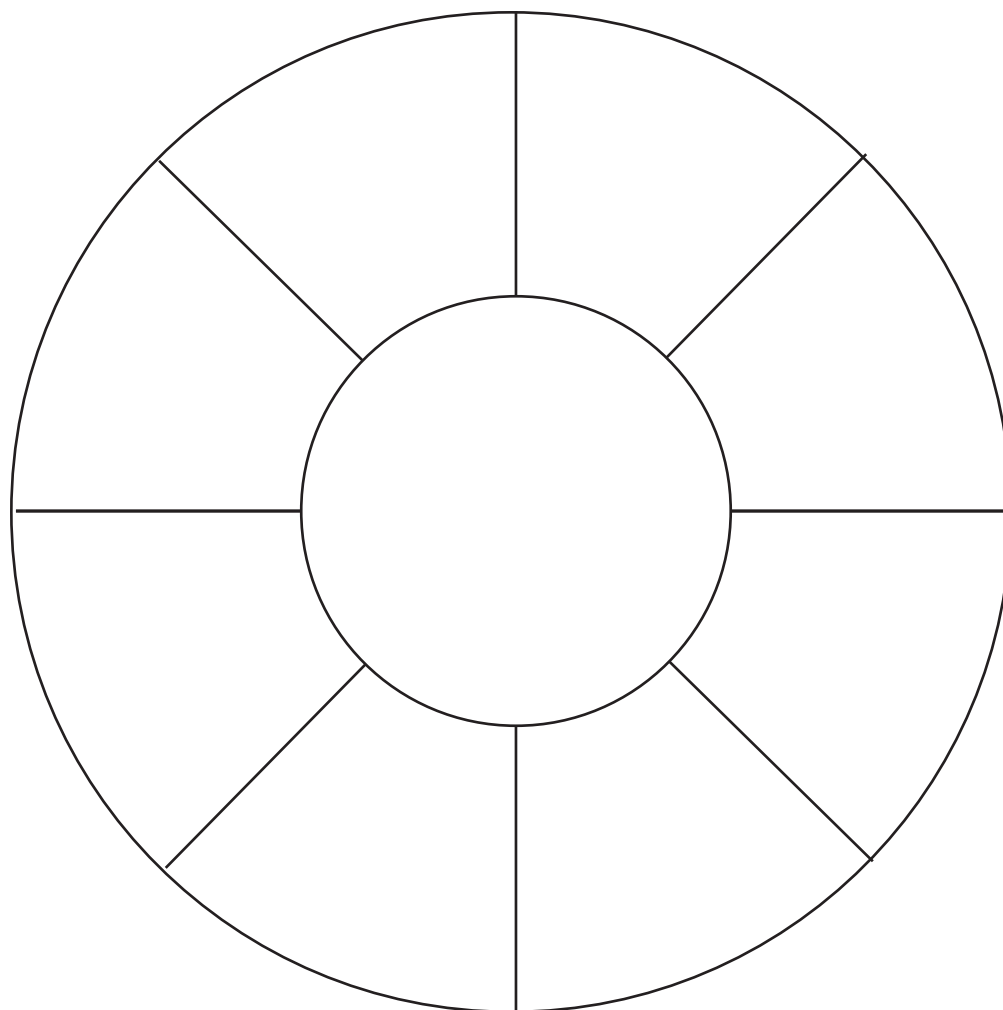
1. The Circle of Life

Life moves fast, at times so fast that we don't seem to be making progress in the areas most important to us personally. Too often we are working off of someone else's agenda. The “Circle of Life,” as shown on page 44, is but one example of how you might slice up your life to make Biblical applications absolutely relevant to the priorities of your life in Christ. At this point life gets intentional.

“Faith is choosing to live as though the Bible is true (because it is) regardless of CIRCUMSTANCES, EMOTIONS, OR CULTURAL TRENDS.”

—RON PROCTOR
Mentoring One2One

The Circle of Life



2. The Principle Approach

See also the application aid found on page 49. This approach is driven by Biblical principles discovered in your personal study.

As you engage in your reading or study of a book or portions of Scripture, pause on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis and ask yourself, "Is there a principle here to be considered for my personal spiritual growth?" Having stated the principle, work out its application to your life.

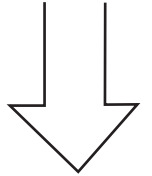
C. WORKSHOP

Pause now for practice: Slicing up your life is most certainly a way to spice up your intimacy with God. Get ready for a grand adventure.

Or, is there some theme or life principle that God's Word is speaking to you about? Use the application aid on page 49 for further practice.

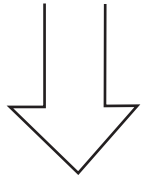
HEAR

Romans 10:17



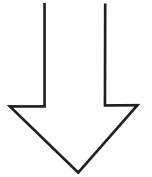
READ

Revelation 1:3



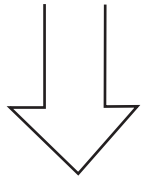
STUDY

ACTS 17:11



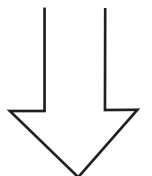
MEMORIZE

Psalms 119:9, 11



MEDITATE

Psalms 1:2, 3



APPLY

Sow a thought,
REAP AN ACTION.

Sow an action,
REAP A HABIT.

Sow a habit,
REAP A CHARACTER.

Sow a character,
REAP A DESTINY.

Making Bible Applications

Topic _____ Name _____

What principle is God speaking to me about?

--

What is my problem? Are there inconsistencies in...

TRUTH	RELATIONSHIPS	ACTIONS/ACCOUNTABILITY

POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS

--

MAKE ALL APPLICATIONS

Personal (Convicted)

Practical (Deepens my walk)

Possible (Can be done)

--

PLAN TO CORRECT MY PROBLEM IS...

--

HOW CAN I MEASURE MY PROGRESS?

--

