



Leading Bible Study

Observation, Interpretation, Application

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Purpose of Outlining



- Organize the text in an orderly and efficient way
- Visual ways of seeing the organization of the text for easier understanding
- Shows connection, flow of ideas & arguments
- Helps to formulate questions to promote learning from the text



Tips on Outlining



- All or mostly words from the Bible
- Logical subordination of ideas
- Parallel structure (and, but, then...)
- Non-single subdivision
- Long Passages
 - Divide the entire text into a few big ideas (usually no more than 4-5 in a chapter)
 - Identify sub-ideas within each portion



Things to Avoid



- Do not delete or rearrange words from the text
- Do not keep division or titles from the text
- Do not add words. If necessary, use parentheses to indicate additions
- Do not delete verse numbers (easy reference while leading)
- Do not just take each verse as a big idea & end with many ideas that can be related



Practice



- Daniel 1:3 – 21
- Daniel 2:12 - 30

Outline – Styles


- Text Outline
- Conceptual Outline
 - Theme (Big Idea)
 - One Idea
 - Supporting Concepts (list all points/ideas in order)
 - Sub-topic
 - Another Idea
 - Supporting Concepts (list all points/ideas in order)
 - Sub-topic
 - Summary/Conclusion



Theme



- Explicitly stated in the passage
- Indications in the passage
- Observation/divisions
- Relationship between the parts
- Flow smoothly with preceding and following passages




Conceptual Outline

Daniel 1:3 – 21

1. Daniel & 3 Friends in exile to Babylon
 1. Name changed
 2. Blessed with “goods” of Babylonian culture
2. Daniel's resolve & Proposal to keep himself pure
3. Result of 10-day test
4. Daniel & 3 Friends inducted into the king's service

Theme: Daniel's appeal to authority resulted in God's blessing



Conceptual Outline

Daniel 2:12 - 30

1. King's anger & order to execute all wise men
2. Daniel's appeal
3. Daniel's spiritual accountability at work
4. Daniel's praise
5. Daniel's witness before King Nebuchadnezzar

➤ Theme: Daniel buying time



Observations



- Who, what, where, when, how, why
- Key Words – repeated, emphasized
- Commands/Advices/Warnings
- Reasons/Cause & effect
- Comparison/contrasts/similarities
- Illustrations
- Lists
- Questions
- Connectors – Therefore, but, and, if, however...



Interpretations



- Things to look for:
 - What does the text mean?
 - What are the main truth?
 - What are the reasons?



Interpretations - Principles



- Definition/usage of words and historical background
- Type of literature
- Internal references
 - Explicit vs Implied
 - “obscure” needs to give way to “clear”
 - Instructive vs example/story/metaphor
 - commentaries/dictionaries can be helpful
- Logical/reasonable/grammatical
- Is it consistent with the context?
- Unity
 - Is the interpretation consistent with the rest of teachings in the Bible?



Interpretations

John Stott's 3 principles of Biblical interpretation

- ▶ Simplicity – God spoke in order to be understood. Look for plain, natural, and obvious meanings. Be mindful of different genres. Natural may not always be literal. (Examples: Born again, Jn 6:54 “Whoever **eats my flesh** and drinks **my** blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”)



Interpretations

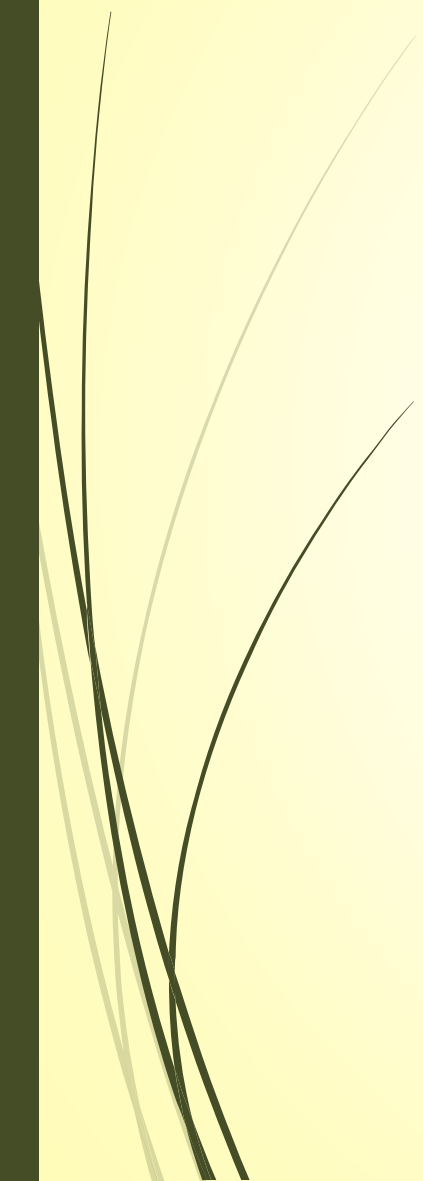


John Stott's 3 principles of Biblical interpretation

- Grammatical/historical Exegesis
 - Look for original sense/meaning of the author
- Harmony
 - Interpret each text in light of all Scriptures
 - Seek natural synthesis and harmony
 - Discover author's theological position
 - When it is impossible to harmonize, admit our failure



Matthew 5:13-16

- How would you handle the interpretation that you can lose your salvation based on salt cannot be made salty again if it loses its saltiness?
 - What principle of interpretation have you used?
- 



Ps 82:6 & 1 Cor. 8:5

- ▶ Ps 82:6 “I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
- ▶ 1 Cor 8:5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in
heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods”
and many “lords”)
- ▶ How would you contradict the interpretation that man
can become divine? What principle of interpretation
have you used?



Applications



- Principles, corrections, prevention, action plans
- Flow naturally from the main truth
- What is God saying to you? What is He asking you to change/grow in thoughts, attitudes, behaviors, relationships with Him and others?
- Start applying the truth yourself first.
- Needs to know the members'
 - Spiritual needs
 - Where they need to grow



Questions



- Make a list of things that you don't understand requiring further research.



Tools



- Different Translations
 - <http://www.biblegateway.com>
- Bible Dictionary
 - <http://eastonsbibledictionary.com>
- Bible Atlas
- Concordance
- Commentary
 - <http://executableoutlines.com>
 - <http://www.discoveryseries.org>
- Online Sermons:
<http://www.allsouls.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx>



Homework



- Work on conceptual outline (add to Isabel's or make own. Refer to the slides)
- Text outline revised
- Wrestle with interpretation question (we are "gods")
- Observation interpretation