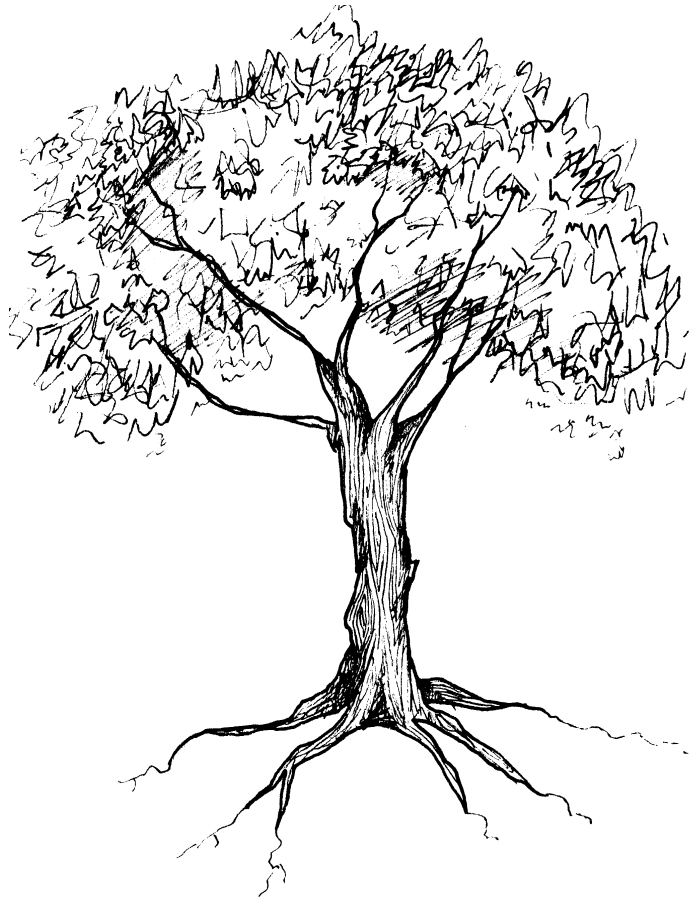


Rooted in Christ

Devotional Studies

“Growing in His Word”



“For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:8 (NASB)

Developing a vital, growing relationship with God
in His Word and through prayer.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied or stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means whatsoever without the written consent of the copyright holder.

Excerpts may be used by individuals or churches for non commercial purposes.

1st Edition July 1997

This Edition January 2003

Scripture quotations are from the New International Version,
Hodder and Stoughton 1979

Personal Devotions

Introduction

When you became a Christian, you entered into a relationship with God who made you a new creation and gave you His Holy Spirit to dwell in you. He wants to reveal Himself to you, to make you like the Lord Jesus Christ and to help you understand His purposes for your life.

This booklet has been written to help you to get to know God better. You will be asked to think carefully about what the Bible says, what it means, and how to apply it to your own life. You should initially plan to spend just a short time, 10 - 20 minutes, in reading and prayer each day but expect this time to increase.

Daily prayer and Bible reading are implied throughout Scripture which speaks of a continuous abiding, dependant relationship.

The principle is summed up in John 15:7 . . .

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

We can be active in Bible study, prayer and witness but if we have lost the sense of our need of God we become dull in spirit. No matter how skilled, knowledgeable and talented we are we can't live independently of God and enjoy His blessing. The least we can do, as we seek to deepen our walk with Him, is to take time every day to nurture this relationship through spending time in the Word, living under its authority and in prayer.

Bible Reading

Remember you will be reading God's Word. Come to it expecting that He will communicate with you. Understanding its meaning comes from time and effort on your part and through the help of the Holy Spirit.

If you are in Christ, you will get your deepest sense of fulfilment and joy when you live under the authority of the Word and apply its teaching to your own life.

First Four Weeks

We have selected readings from Mark's Gospel for the first four weeks, with some simple questions. If the questions don't provide enough challenge, spend time thinking about what the passage teaches and how this truth should effect your life. This first section is designed to help you get started and establish discipline in your personal devotions.

Follow On

The section which follows teaches you how to deepen your understanding of the Word by giving you the tools to do your own study. There is also a twelve week reading plan. This section uses three questions as the foundation of the studies . . .

LOOKING - What Do I See?

THINKING - What Did it Mean?

APPLICATION - What Does it Mean to Me Today?

Prayer

After you have spent time reading God's Word you need to spend time in prayer (talking to God), this is part of the communication process. You get to know people by listening to what they say. You respond to them, and they listen to you. Prayer is much the same; you don't need special words to pray to God, nor do you need to be in a special place. When you have finished reading and thinking about what God has said to you, pray to Him. Use what you have been studying as a starting point.

Daily Fellowship with God

The Bible

The Bible was written by over 40 writers who were directed by God. It was completed nearly 2,000 years ago and is divided into two sections. These are the Old Testament (O.T.) which covers the time from Creation to about 400 years before the birth of Christ and the New Testament (N.T.) which covers the life of Jesus and the first Christians. What God says in the Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and life.

There are 66 books making up the Bible. Thirty-nine of these are in the O.T. and twenty-seven in the N.T.

A "translation" rather than a paraphrase will give you the most accurate understanding of the original. If you or your church have strong views about using the King James version then use this. If not we would recommend that you use a more easily understood modern translation such as the New International version (NIV), the Revised Standard version (RSV), the New American Standard Bible (NASB) or the New King James version (NKJV).

A "paraphrase" uses different words than the author did in an attempt to convey his meaning to the modern mind. Paraphrases (The Good News Bible, The Living Bible, The Message etc.) are fine for general reading but are less appropriate for serious Bible study.



How to use This Book

General

1. You should do one study each day. The objective is to establish a daily habit.
2. You may find at first that you only spend a few minutes reading and thinking about the passage, but over time you will start to spend longer.

Try and find a time during your daily schedule when you will not be disturbed. A time when you can have peace and quiet to think. Early in the morning is best but if some other time is more suitable for you then choose this, and try to regard it as an appointment.

There will be times when you can't be bothered, but take the time anyway, whether you feel like it or not. Don't panic if you do miss a day but make it your initial target never to miss two days in a row. Later you can raise your target.

3. A Bible Dictionary is not essential, but it will prove very useful for looking up words which you don't understand. An English dictionary will also help with the plain English meaning of words.
4. Get a notebook, in which to write, and keep a record of what you are learning. A page-a-day diary is very suitable for this purpose.
5. You will find a glossary of more difficult Biblical terms included to help you. Words in the glossary have a (G) after them in the text.



The First Four Weeks

A study in Mark's Gospel

Your Daily Bible Reading

1. Before reading each day, pray along the lines of Psalm 25:4-5 . . . “Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day long.”
2. Date a page in your diary, (if not already printed), and record the reference to the passage under study, e.g. Monday 2nd July, Mark 2:1-12.
3. Read the passage set for the day several times, slowly and thoughtfully and think about what it says.
4. Consider the questions in the notes, and the application of God's Word to your own life. Write your comments in your diary.
5. If you find the questions too easy then read the passage again, prayerfully. Consider what it teaches, and then ask God how that teaching relates to your life.
6. In these studies there will be an increasing emphasis on application. In other words you will be asked to apply what you are learning to your life: you should plan to change your words, thoughts or actions so that they conform to the teaching of the passage.

Daily Prayer Time

1. In Romans 8:26-27, Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us in our praying. As in every area of life you have to learn to pray. Your initial efforts may seem awkward, but they won't be any less effective.
2. Following your reading you should spend time in prayer about what God's Word has said and your reaction to it.
3. The letters, A.C.T.S., help to provide balance in praying so that you don't only focus on your own requests.

A. C. T. S.

A - Adoration, worship, praise (G)

Take time to praise the Lord, for who He is and what He has done. As you read the Scriptures you will find many passages whose words you can use to praise God, e.g., Psalm 145, Romans 11:33-36

C - Confession (G)

Admit your sin to God and seek His forgiveness (G). Sin hinders our fellowship with Him, confession and forgiveness restores it.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

T - Thanksgiving

We are told to thank God in all circumstances.

"... in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

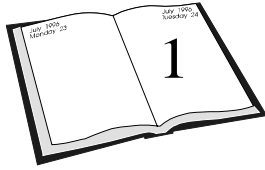
Philippians 4:6

It is good to express our gratitude to God for what He has done and continues to do for us, to count our blessings (G).

S - Supplication

In Philippians 4:6 we are told to ask, to let our requests be made known. We all tend to major in personal requests because we all want things. Try and balance your requests so that they include others.

Daily Readings



Read Mark 1:1-13

1. Who are the key figures in these verses?
2. Who is the Gospel (G) all about?
3. What sort of ministry (G) did John the Baptist have?
4. Who commended Jesus after His baptism?



Read Mark 1:14-20

1. What other event preceded the start of Christ's (G) ministry?
2. What sort of men did Jesus call to follow Him?
3. What did Jesus mean by saying He would make them "fishers of men?"
4. How does Mark describe the response of those whom Jesus called?

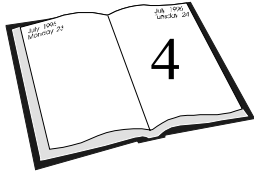
To apply - When Jesus calls us to do something we should not put it off until another day.



Read Mark 1:21-28

1. Where did Jesus go on the Sabbath Day and what did He do?
2. How was His teaching initially received?
3. Over whom did Jesus demonstrate His authority (G)?
4. What issues caused debate as a result of Christ's (G) visit?

Note - Christ's authority (G) will be seen again and again as you study Mark's Gospel.



Read Mark 1:29-39

In Mark's Gospel, the words "immediately" and "at once" occur frequently. You might like to highlight them with a dry marker.

1. In what ways does Jesus demonstrate His power and authority (G)?
2. Why were the demons not allowed to speak?
3. Where did Jesus go early in the morning? What did He go to do?
4. What sort of ministry did Jesus continue to exercise?

To apply - Jesus made spending time in prayer a high priority. Do you?

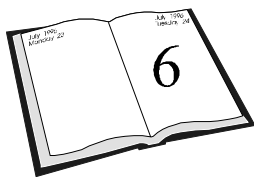


Read Mark 2:1-12

Look up the meaning of the word "faith" in the Glossary.

1. What can you learn about faith from these men?
2. The man has come for healing but what did Jesus do for him first?
3. How did Jesus demonstrate that His authority (G) to forgive sins was more than just words?
4. Who does this make Jesus?

To apply - A major aspect of faith is acting on what you believe (G) to be true.



Read Mark 2:13-17

In New Testament times people were sometimes known by more than one name, as is the case here. Levi is better known as Matthew.

1. What was Levi's background before Christ called him?
2. For what reason did the scribes condemn Jesus and the disciples?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

To apply - Jesus frequently met with sinners yet was not one of them. What can you learn from His example?



Read Mark 4:1-20

Even at this early stage in His ministry Jesus was training the disciples. He taught the parable to the crowds but He explained its meaning to the disciples in private.

1. What sort of people are represented by “the path or roadside?”
2. What sort of people are represented by the “rocky places?”
3. What sort of people are represented by the “thorns?”
4. What sort of people are represented by the “good soil?”

To apply - Which of these do you most closely represent in your response to God's Word?



Read Mark 4:35-41

Jesus leaves the crowds, to cross over the lake, taking the disciples with Him.

1. During the crossing the disciples found they had a problem. What was it?
2. Jesus was asleep in the stern. What did He do when the disciples wakened Him?
3. What was their reaction to subsequent events?
4. How can this story be an encouragement to you today?

To apply - Who do you think Jesus is?

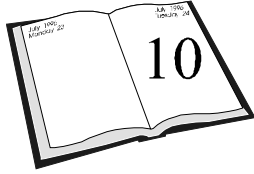


Read Mark 6:1-6

Jesus comes to His home town and teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath day.

1. What was the initial reaction of the people?
2. What second thoughts did they have?
3. What was the result of their attitude?

To apply - Often our closest friends and family are the ones to whom it is most difficult to witness (G). Look up 1 Peter 3:1-2 and write down what you think Peter says is the best way to witness to those closest to us?

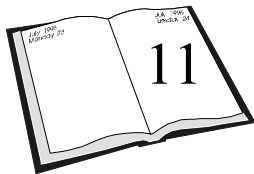


Read Mark 6:30-44

Earlier in this chapter Jesus had sent the disciples out to preach. As this section opens they have returned.

1. What is the first thing the disciples and Jesus do?
2. What is Christ's reaction to their reports?
3. Our Lord's plans were frustrated. What was His reaction to being followed by the crowds?
4. What problem arose and how did Jesus deal with it?

Note - God is concerned about both our physical and our spiritual needs (not necessarily wants).



Read Mark 8:27-30

Travelling to preach and teach in the villages of Caesarea Phillipi, Jesus asks the disciples some questions.

1. What key issue did Jesus raise with the disciples?
2. What opinions did the people hold?
3. Who did Peter think Jesus was?

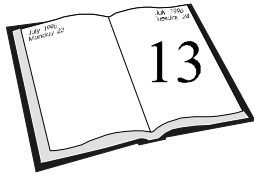
Note - Throughout the Old Testament God promised His people that one day, someone would come to deal with the problem of their sin. This person was the Lord Jesus, and the name Christ (G) is a title given to Him.



Read Mark 8:31-33

1. For what is Jesus beginning to prepare the disciples?
2. List four things in this passage which Jesus was to experience.
3. To whom did Jesus attribute Peter's comments?
4. Peter did not understand why Jesus should suffer; but later he did. See 1 Peter 2:24.

To apply - Sometimes even our loved ones can be used to side-track us from obeying the Lord.



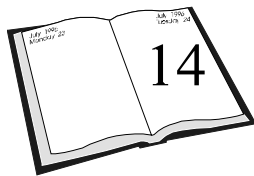
Read Mark 8:34-38

1. Jesus said that, if anyone wanted to come after Him, *“he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”*

What did Jesus mean by these three things?

2. What contrasts does Jesus set before His listeners in verses 35-38?

To apply - Are there any circumstances in which you are ashamed to let your faith be known?

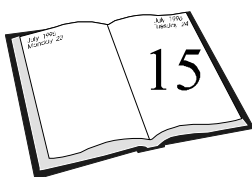


Read Mark 9:2-13

In this incident Moses represents the Law, Elijah represents the Prophets.

1. When Jesus was baptised God spoke from a cloud to Him telling Him that He, God was well pleased. Here God speaks to the disciples telling them to, “Listen to Jesus.” What did He mean by this phrase?
2. What did Jesus command in reference to this event?
3. What issue caused the disciples to wonder and talk among themselves?

To apply - What does it mean for us to listen to Jesus and His Word?



Read Mark 9:30-32

Again we find Jesus travelling with the disciples and wanting private time with them.

1. What did Jesus want to do which required privacy?
2. For what was Jesus preparing the disciples?
3. Do you think Jesus really knew what lay before Him?

Note - The training of the disciples had a very high priority in the ministry of Jesus. The task of preaching the Gospel (G) would fall to them. See Acts 1:8.



Read Mark 10:17-22

This is the sad story of a young man who turned his back on Jesus. Notice that the whole discussion is on the basis of external behaviour.

1. What did this young man think was the source of eternal life?
2. According to his own testimony, what sort of person was he?
3. List the things which Jesus demanded of this young man?
4. What choice did he finally make?

To apply - As Christians obedience will sometimes be costly. Is there anything in your life which is more important to you than following Christ?



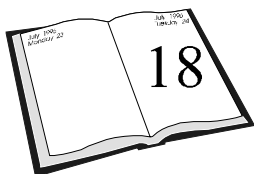
Read Mark 12:28-34

1. What does God demand of us?

"But the more a man obeys God's Laws the more truly and fully does he show his love (G) for Him."
1 John 2:5 (J. B. Philips)

2. Jesus told this man he was close to the Kingdom. What had he said to bring this response from Jesus?

To apply - How do you show your love for God?

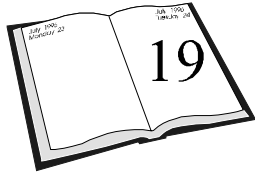


Read Mark 12:41-44

Giving, in this story, was very public. Jesus could see what everyone put into the treasury.

1. What were the rich people giving?
2. How much did the widow put in?
3. Why did Jesus say she gave more than anyone else?
4. This passage does not teach that we are to give away everything we have. What lessons can we learn from it?

To apply - Do you spend more on leisure pursuits than you give to God? How much of your time do you really give to God?



Read Mark 14:1-9

In Matthew 20:2, a denarius was a day's wage for a workman so the cost of this perfume was equivalent to a year's income. It was kept sealed in a vial to preserve its scent, and breaking the vial meant it all had to be used immediately.

1. How did the woman show her love (G) for Christ?
2. Some were indignant, but the real reason for the criticism is apparent if you read John 12:3-6.
3. How did Jesus describe the woman's actions?
4. In what way has Christ's prophecy about the woman been fulfilled?

To apply - As a follower of Jesus you can expect criticism from others.

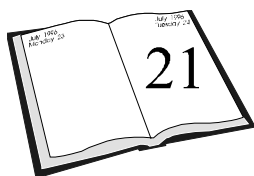


Read Mark 14:12-16

The Passover (G) celebrates the time when the Jews were delivered by God from slavery in Egypt. Read the story in Exodus 12:1-14.

1. What was the basis, in Exodus 12, for God passing over a house and not killing the first born?

To apply - Take a few moments to thank and praise (G) God for your own salvation.

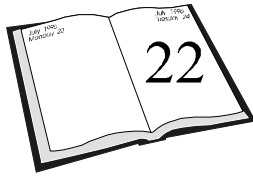


Read Mark 14:17-26

This beautiful fellowship supper with the Lord Jesus and His disciples is the origin of what we call "communion" or the "breaking of bread." See Luke 24:30.

1. What is the significance of the broken bread?
2. What is the significance of the wine?
3. What are you commanded to do in 1 Corinthians 11:24-25?

To apply - Do you remember the Lord in this way?



Read Mark 14:32-42

After supper with the disciples Jesus and they went to the Garden of Gethsemane where He was later arrested.

1. What were Christ's feelings as He went with His disciples to the garden?
2. In this particular situation what did Jesus do?
3. What were the three chosen disciples asked to do?
4. Faced with the cross, what did Jesus choose to do?

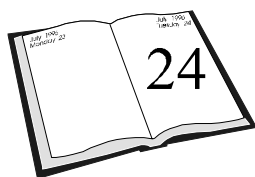
To apply - Do you face a choice in some area of your life, self or God? What will you do?



Read Mark 14:53-65

This trial was illegal under Jewish law. The officials were more concerned with convicting Jesus than on observing the law, theirs or Gods. Read Deuteronomy 19:16-21.

1. Before whom was the Lord Jesus initially tried?
2. What sort of evidence was presented against Him?
3. Why was He finally condemned as worthy of death?
4. Does anything in this account strike you as significant?

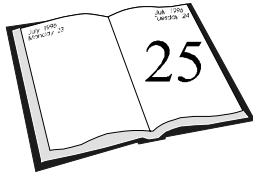


Read Mark 14:27-31, 66-72

There are some more interesting details about Peter in John's account in John 18:12-18. Only two of the disciples had the courage to be here, the others had fled.

1. What had Peter claimed he would never do?
2. What happened when he was asked in the courtyard about Jesus?
3. What was Peter's reaction when he realised what he had done?

To apply - Is there any way in which you can identify with Peter's experience?



Read Mark 15:1-20

The Jews were under Roman control and could not, themselves, carry out the death penalty. They had to convince Pilate to execute Jesus.

This passage does not explain why Jesus had to die. Read John 3:16-18.

1. What conditions must be satisfied to receive eternal life?
2. What does it mean to believe (G)?
3. What is the basis of judgement or condemnation?

Note - Our sin can be forgiven (G) only because Christ died on the cross.



Read Mark 15:21-41

Take time to read Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

1. Take time today to meditate (prayerfully think about) Christ's suffering for you.
2. What happened in the ninth hour?
3. Read Matthew 27:51-53. Note some of the things which happened when Jesus died.

To apply - Jesus took your place, just as if He had sinned in all the ways you have.



Read Mark 15:42-47

Death by crucifixion could take several days so Pilate was surprised at the early death of Jesus and asked the centurion for confirmation.

Joseph of Arimathea seems to have been a secret disciple (John 19:38), someone who followed Jesus but did not tell others.

1. How does Joseph's behaviour in this passage contrast with this?
2. Where was the body placed?
3. What other witnesses were there to these events?

To apply - *Are you known amongst family, friends and colleagues as a Christian?*



Read Mark 16:1-8

We read that Jesus was crucified, that He died and was buried in the tomb.

1. Why were the women going to the tomb?
2. What problem did they expect when they got there?
3. What did they actually find?
4. What did the angels say had happened to Jesus?

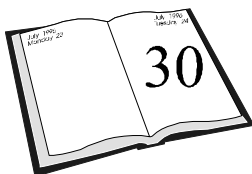
Note - The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the best attested historical events of all time. Because He rose you also will rise.



Read Mark 16:9-16

1. To whom did Jesus appear in these first hours after His resurrection?
2. What was the reaction of the disciples to this news?
3. Later Jesus appeared to the eleven and reproached them for not believing those who had seen Him. What command did Jesus then give the disciples?
4. Can you summarise in your own words what the Gospel is?

To apply - We all have a responsibility to share the Gospel with others. Have you ever done so?



Read Mark 16:9-20

1. Where is Jesus now?
2. How significant is the reality of the resurrection? See 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.
3. What did the disciples do after Jesus left them?

To apply - What a thrill to know that you have a living, loving Saviour with you, day by day, helping you to live for Him. Pause and thank Him now.

FOLLOW ON

New study tools

Daily Devotional Study

Introduction

So far your personal devotions have involved reading a short passage of Scripture, answering questions and considering the application or challenge to your life. The next step is to learn to do the study for yourself.

It will take you some time to get comfortable with the new format so be patient.

The new study format involves a process. Coming to an accurate understanding of the application of Scripture to our own lives involves all of the elements of this process.

The passage you are studying may be narrative (story) or poetry, a parable or a psalm, or concentrated teaching such as the Epistles, but in each case the process will be the same.

Before you start pray, asking God to help you to understand His Word.

Read the passage over as often as you can in order to get its message into your mind. Work at your own level and remember, the more you study the easier it will become. Wherever you are in your spiritual walk God will communicate with you.

It is very helpful to mark your Bible. Use lines, boxes, dry colours, symbols to highlight things you notice.

The Process Involves

1. LOOKING - Reading and observing the passage to discover as much as you can.
2. THINKING - Thinking about what you have discovered, and trying to understand its original significance and meaning.
3. APPLICATION - Considering how the truths you have been thinking about apply to your own life.

Time

We suggest that you spend about twenty minutes, initially at least, for your Bible study though this will normally get longer as you get into the discipline of your studies.

"The more time you spend in observation, the less time you will spend in interpretation, and the more accurate will be your results. The less time you spend in observation, the more time you will spend in interpretation and the less accurate will be your results."

[See 'Living by the Book' by Howard and William Hendricks, Moody Press.]

Readings

For the rest of the course use the reading plan on page 20 of these notes.

What to Do

1. Work through as many levels of, “LOOKING - What Do I See?”
2. Work through “THINKING - What Did This Mean?”
3. Work through “APPLICATION - What Does it Mean to Me Today?”

Try and read **accurately**, read what the text actually says and don't try to make it conform to something it does not say.

Avoid coming to conclusions about **meaning** until you have finished **looking**.

Don't neglect something because it contains an uncomfortable truth.

LOOKING - What Do I See?

Level One

1. Read the passage over a few times to get it into your mind.

Context

2. Look at the context, what comes before and what follows after.

The context of a verse is the surrounding paragraph.

The context of a paragraph is the chapter.

The context of a chapter is the surrounding chapters, perhaps the whole Book.

Background

3. Try and find out . . .

Who is involved, the writer, the reader and the participants?

What is happening in the text? What were the circumstances being addressed?

When did this take place?

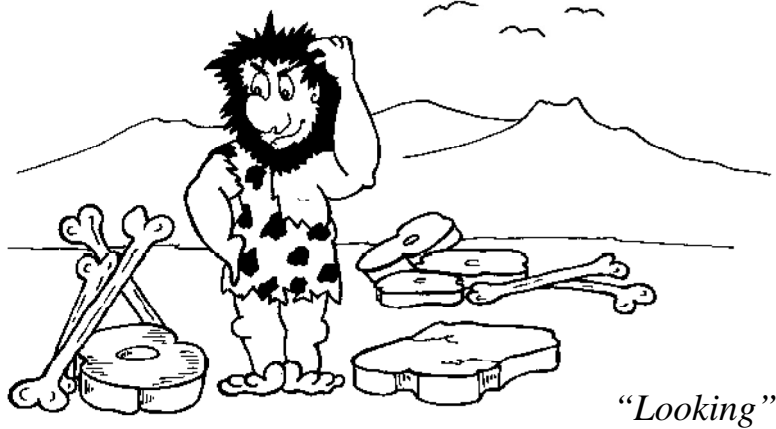
Where did this take place?

How did it happen?

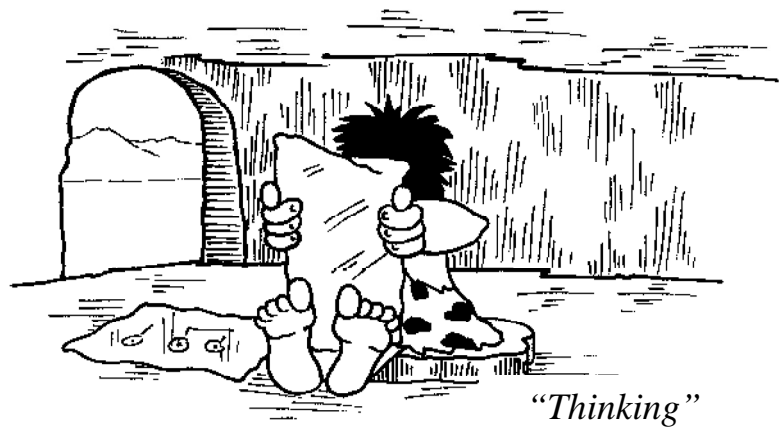
Why did this happen?

Message

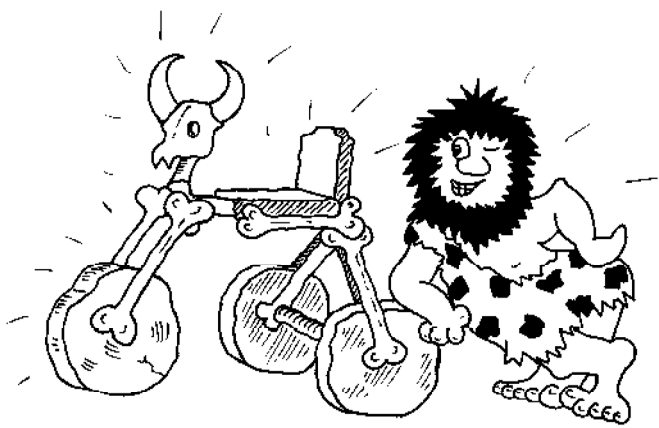
4. What does the passage say or teach?
5. Write down what you have discovered and any unanswered questions you may have.



“Looking”



“Thinking”



“Applying”

THINKING - What Did this Mean?

Think about some of the things which you discovered. You may have to be selective depending on how much you have dug up.

One of the most important aspects of Bible study is the context. If you come across the English word "bow", in a book, the meaning will be determined by the context in which the word is being used.

1. In our Bible study the same principle applies. The immediate and wider context help us to understand what the writer is trying to communicate.
2. A vital question is - Why did God record this passage? What is its purpose?
3. Before we apply a passage to ourselves we need to understand what it meant to those to whom it initially applied.

So try and deduce . . .

What the writer was trying to communicate to his readers.

What the passage meant to them.

Ask yourself what is the 'timeless truth,' the principle which is true in your culture, time and situation.

4. These are important questions in helping you to understand how the passage applies to today. Much of Scripture needs to be understood in the light of the culture and circumstances existing at the time.

A Bible Handbook or Bible Dictionary can often help with background information.

APPLICATION - What Does it Mean to Me Today?

1. The last step is to consider your response to what you have learned. This is the application.
2. You have been thinking about what the passage meant to other people in a different land, time, culture and perhaps even religious system.

What principles can you see which apply to you in your circumstances today?

What lessons can you learn?

3. How should you change in order to conform to what the Bible teaches?

Prayerfully consider possible applications. Select one which you believe God would have you work on.

Avoid general statements like . . .

"Christians should have personal devotions."

The application should be a personal statement of your intentions.

For example . . .

"I intend to spend time, every day, in Bible study and prayer."

or

"I realise that taking pens home from work is stealing so I will return all I have to work."

Reading Plan

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| __ Proverbs 2:1-15 | __ Matthew 5:1-1 | __ 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 |
| __ Proverbs 3:1-8 | __ Matthew 5:13-16 | __ 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 |
| __ Proverbs 3:9-18 | __ Matthew 5:17-20 | __ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| __ Proverbs 3:19-26 | __ Matthew 5:21-26 | __ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 |
| __ James 1:1-8 | __ Matthew 5:27-37 | __ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 |
| __ James 1:9-15 | __ Matthew 5:38-48 | __ Ephesians 1:1-14 |
| __ James 1:16-21 | __ Matthew 6:1-4 | __ Ephesians 1:15-23 |
| __ James 1:22-27 | __ Matthew 6:5-15 | __ Ephesians 2:1-10 |
| __ James 2:1-7 | __ Matthew 6:16-24 | __ Ephesians 2:11-22 |
| __ James 2:8-13 | __ Matthew 6:25-34 | __ Ephesians 3:1-13 |
| __ James 2:14-17 | __ Matthew 7:1-6 | __ Ephesians 3:14-21 |
| __ James 2:18-26 | __ Matthew 7:7-14 | __ Ephesians 4:1-16 |
| __ James 3:1-12 | __ Matthew 7:15-23 | __ Ephesians 4:17-24 |
| __ James 3:13-18 | __ Matthew 7:24-29 | __ Ephesians 4:25-32 |
| __ James 4:1-10 | __ Psalm 1 | __ Ephesians 5:1-14 |
| __ James 4:11-17 | __ Psalm 8 | __ Ephesians 5:15-20 |
| __ James 5:1-6 | __ Psalm 13 | __ Ephesians 5:21-33 |
| __ James 5:7-12 | __ Psalm 15 | __ Ephesians 6:1-9 |
| __ James 5:13-20 | __ Psalm 20 | __ Ephesians 6:10-23 |
| __ Romans 12:1-8 | __ Psalm 34:1-10 | __ Revelations 20:11-15 |
| __ Romans 12:9-13 | __ Psalm 34:11-22 | __ Revelations 21:1-8 |
| __ Romans 12:14-21 | __ Psalm 51:1-9 | |
| __ Romans 13:1-7 | __ Psalm 51:10-19 | |
| __ Romans 13:8-14 | __ Psalm 77:1-10 | |
| __ Romans 14:1-9 | __ Psalm 77:11-20 | |
| __ Romans 14:10-12 | __ Psalm 91:1-8 | |
| __ Romans 14:13-23 | __ Psalm 91:9-16 | |
| __ Romans 15:1-6 | __ Psalm 139:1-12 | |
| __ Romans 15:7-13 | __ Psalm 139:13-24 | |
| __ Romans 15:14-21 | __ Psalm 145:1-9 | |
| __ Romans 15:22-33 | __ Psalm 145:10-21 | |

GLOSSARY

AUTHORITY: this is the right and power to enforce obedience.

BELIEVE: to believe means not only to accept a truth or doctrine mentally but to act on that truth or doctrine. In Biblical terms believing is primarily applied to the Lord Jesus Christ. It means not only to know that Jesus Christ died in order that our sins might be forgiven, but that we act on that knowledge and claim the forgiveness offered to us.

BLASPHEMY: to blaspheme is to slander or speak lightly of the sacred or of God. It is to act or speak of God in such a way as to show contempt.

BLESSING: this is a general term referring to very many good and beneficial things which happen to us as a result of our relationship with God. It includes, from time to time, such things as salvation, peace, fellowship, spiritual abilities, material needs, encouragement, help and much more.

CHRIST: the name Christ is a title, like King, given to the Lord Jesus. It means literally the Anointed One.

CONFESSION: is owning up to our wrong thoughts, words and actions and agreeing with God that what we did was sin. It involves agreeing with God's judgement of them rather than trying to justify ourselves.

COVENANT: a covenant is a binding agreement between two people. When God makes a covenant this means that God will act as He has promised as and when men meet the conditions relating to the covenant.

FAITH: this is trust in a person. It focuses on the character, holiness and power of God. In practical terms this faith - in God Himself - and who He is - is seen in our obedience to His Word in all circumstances, even when we don't understand why.

FORGIVENESS: this is that which allows the fellowship between two people (one of whom has sinned against, or offended the other) to be restored. One of the "people" may be God Himself. When someone "forgives" another, the offence is buried, never to be raised again. Three promises are implied when we forgive:

1. That the one who forgives will never think about (mull over) the offence again.
2. That the one who forgives will never raise the offence again with the offender.
3. That the one who forgives will never discuss the offence with a third party.

GOSPEL: the word gospel means literally the "good news." It is used in the Bible especially of the teaching relating to what God has done about sin through Christ and how men may be forgiven and reconciled to God.

LOVE: two Greek words are translated "love" in the New Testament. "phileo" and "agape." Phileo relates to relationships on human level and might be translated fondness. Agape relates to God's love for us and is an emotion beyond human capacity.

However, when the Bible commands us to "love one another" it is not speaking of feelings but of actions. To love another means to act in a loving way towards them.

See 1 Corinthians 13. Thus we can act in a loving way towards someone we don't like. God does not command us to like everybody but to love them.

MINISTRY: a word used to signify the calling or vocation of someone in God's service. It is the spiritual work in which they are involved.

PASSOVER: in the book of Exodus, chapter 12, we read how God brought His people out of Egypt. Just prior to this event He killed every first-born in Egypt, both people and animals. God's people had been warned to sprinkle blood from a lamb on the lintel and door posts of their houses so that the angel of death, seeing the blood, would "passover" and their first-born would be safe.

The Passover feast was a once a year remembrance of that first passing over.

PRAISE: to praise God is to commend Him in words or song for Himself, for His qualities and for what He has done. It means to speak well of Him.

REPENT: to repent means to change direction. In Biblical terms, to stop controlling our own lives and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to the scriptures.

WITNESS: to witness means to tell others by word and example about the "Gospel."