



- Read slowly and carefully.
- Any goal worth pursuing takes diligence, patience, and training.



Reading Carefully — Part 1 Why Read Carefully?

- Scripture is inspired. All the words matter.
- Most of us read too quickly. If we skim over the details, we can miss important meaning.
- We may be in a hurry to ask, "What does this mean?"

Why read carefully? Because God inspired the writer's choice of words. *All* the words matter.



Reading Carefully – Part 1 See the details

- In this step, we are not interpreting or applying the text. We are <u>observing</u> the text!
- We read slowly and carefully.
 Observe as many <u>details</u> as possible.
- Focus on the <u>word</u> and <u>sentence</u> level.
- We are on Step 1 of the Interpretive Journey, "What does it say?"



Reading Carefully – Part 1 Things to Look For (pp. 24-30)

- Repetition of Words
- Comparisons Similarities
- Contrasts Differences
- Cause and effect
- Figures of Speech
- Conjunctions
- Lists
- Verbs/Pronouns



Repetition of Words

- Look for words that repeat. How many times does it repeat?
- By observing the repetition of words, we have an indication of what the passage may be about.

John 15:1-10 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 1 John 2:15-17



Comparisons

- Focuses on similarities.
- Look for items, ideas, or individuals that are compared with each other.
- Ask yourself what is being compared.

Proverbs 25:26 Isaiah 40:31



Contrasts

- Focuses on differences.
- Look for items, ideas, or individuals that are <u>contrasted</u> with each other.
- Ask yourself what is being contrasted.

Proverbs 15:1 Romans 6:23



Cause and Effect

- Often the Biblical writers will state a <u>cause</u> and then an <u>effect</u>.
- The effect is the result or a consequence of the cause.

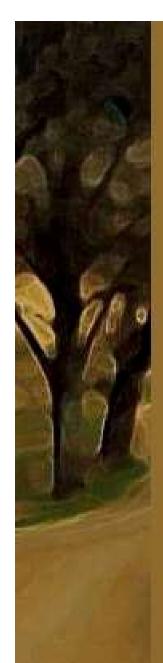
2 Chronicles 7:14
Proverbs 15:1
Romans 6:23
Romans 12:2



Figures of Speech

- Words used in a sense other than the normal sense.
- Figurative image that helps us understand the idea being expressed.

Psalm 23:1 Psalm 119:105 Isaiah 40:31



Conjunctions

 Conjunctions are the mortar that holds the phrases and sentences of Scripture together.

• And, for, but, therefore, since, because...

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:1

Hebrews 12:1



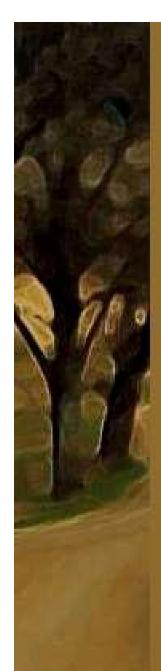
Lists

Any list of more than two items.

Galatians 5:19-20

Galatians 5:22-23

1 John 2:16



Verbs/Pronouns

- <u>Verbs</u>—Action words.
- What kind of verb is used? Past, present, future tense, imperative.
- <u>Pronouns</u> Words that refer to people, places, items, ideas. (*He, she, you, me, my, we, our*)

Ephesians 4:2-3 Colossians 3:1



Assignment

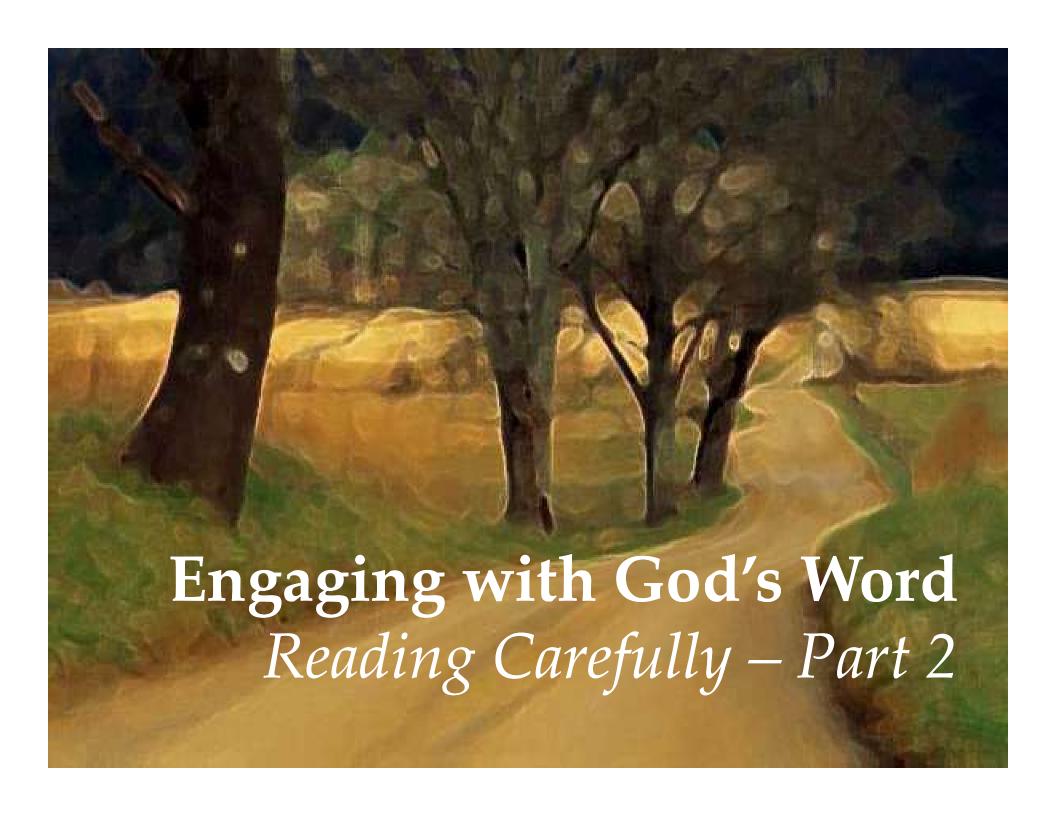
Observe as many details as you can in the following passage.

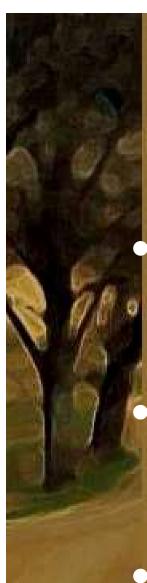
1 John 1:5-7



Details to look for

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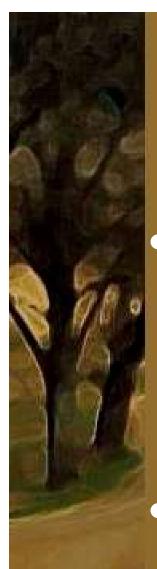
Reading Carefully – Part 2 See the larger context pp. 32-38

- Now, we will take a step back and turn our attention to the <u>bigger picture</u> in the passage we are studying.
- In this step, we shift our focus from the level of the sentence to the <u>larger</u> context of paragraphs and chapters.
- Keep looking, keep observing!



Reading Carefully - Part 2

- General and Specific
- Questions and Answers
- Dialogue
- Purpose/result statements
- Means
- Conditional Clauses
- Action/Roles
- Emotional terms (Tone)
- Connections
- Story shifts



General and Specific

A general statement is made followed by specifics of the idea.

Galatians 5:16-22

Questions and Answers

 The author raises a rhetorical question, then answers his own question.

Romans 6:1-2



Dialogue

- Note the fact that dialogue is taking place.
- Ask "who is speaking, what is the setting, is it an argument, discussion, what is the point?"

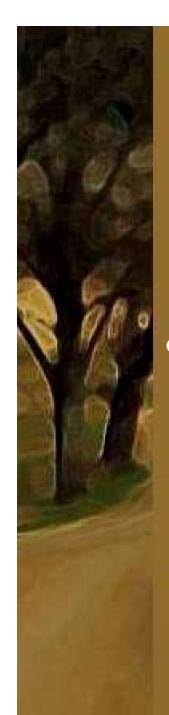
Numbers 22 John 4 John 13:6-10



Purpose/result statements

- Phrases or sentences that describe the reason, result or consequence.
- Frequently introduced with that, in order that, so that, to, etc.

John 3:16 John 15:16 Ephesians 2:10



Means

 When an action or purpose is stated, look for the explanation of <u>how</u> the desired result will be accomplished.

> Psalm 119:9 Romans 8:13



Conditional Clauses

- In order for a result or consequence to occur, a condition is stated.
- Often uses, "if...then" wording.

Romans 8:13b
2 Corinthians 5:17
1 John 1:6



Action/Roles of People/God

- Identify actions that people do and actions that God does.
- Ask if there is a connection between what God does and what people do.

Ephesians 5:1-2



Emotional Terms (Tone)

Pay attention to words that have emotion expressed.

Galatians 4:12-16



Connections between paragraphs and episodes

- Ask, "What is the connection between this paragraph and the one before and after?"
- Look for connections, repeated words, repeated themes, cause and effect, conjunctions.

Luke 15



Story shifts

- Look for places where the story takes a turn.
- In the Letters, this often happens when the text shifts from doctrine to practical application.

Luke 15
Ephesians 1-3; 4-6



Assignment

Make as many observations as you can about the following passage:

Look for details

and the larger patterns.

Philippians 2:1-4



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- General and specific
- Q & A
- Dialogue
- Purpose/result
- Means
- Conditional clauses
- Action/Roles
- Emotion (Tone)
- Connections
- Story shifts



Engaging with God's Word

For next week....

- Read chapters 4, 5, and 6.
- Spend some time with the Scripture passages in your handout.

