What did we learn?

Attractive truth is applied truth. The question is not “are we in the word?” but “is the word in us?” God’s plan for every follower of Christ (aka Christian, Believer) is to “conform us to the image and likeness of Christ”. He wants to make a permanent difference in our character and conduct.

4 Substitutes for Application
1. We substitute Interpretation for Application- settling for knowledge rather than experience.
2. We substitute Superficial Obedience for Substantive Life Change- We apply biblical truth to areas we are already applying it, not to the real parts of our life that need changing.
3. We substitute Rationalization for Repentance- Rationalizing sin instead of repenting of it.
4. We substitute an Emotional Experience for a Volitional Decision- We study, we feel good about what we learned but no real change takes place.

Application Works, just consult the letter from James. (James 1:12-25, NLT) God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Four Steps in Application
1. Know the Text- Interpretation is one, application is many.
2. Relate- The truth of the word of God must relate to EVERY experience in our lives (take a spiritual inventory).
   a. The working Word
      i. A new relationship with God
ii. A new relationship with yourself
iii. A new relationship with other people
iv. A new relationship with sin
v. The Word exposes your sin
vi. The Word gives you God’s promises
vii. The Word gives you God’s commands
viii. The Word gives you examples to follow

3. Meditate- We need time to process it all.
4. Practice- Ultimate goal of Bible study is to PRACTICE the truth.

Notes for May 7th, 2010

- What did we learn? Hendrick’s 10 rules for Figuring out Figurative Language are worth writing down and keeping in our Bibles.

Read Chapters 37 & 38- Putting it all Together and Don’t Stop Now (read this on your own).
We will go through chapters 39 & 40 on Friday night- The Value of Application and Four Steps in Application.

Notes for April 30th, 2010

- What did we learn? We can gain a richer, deeper and more meaningful understanding of the Word of God when utilizing resources such a Bible Concordance, Bible Dictionary, Bible Atlas & various commentaries. LIFT UP YOUR HEAD O YE GATES! WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?.

Read Chapters 35- Coming To Terms (dealing with obscure terms)
Read Chapters 36- Figuring out The Figurative (10 Principals for “Figuring out the Figurative”). WE WILL SPEND OUT TIME HERE ON THE 30th

Notes for April 23rd, 2010

- We will spend time becoming familiar with using different resources to enhance our study & interpretation of the biblical text.

Read Chapters 32- Comparison (The value of a concordance)
Read Chapters 33- Culture (gaining cultural context.... my favorite example in this book is from Psalm 24).
Read Chapters 34- Consultation (Using other resources- Bible Dictionaries, Bible Handbooks, Atlases, Bible commentaries, additional resources).

Notes for April 9th, 2010

What did we learn/discover on April 2nd?
• Fleas lose their ability to hear when you pull off all their legs!
• The meaning of the Text is not in our response to the Test but IN THE TEXT. Meaning is not our subjective response to the thoughts read into the text but God’s objective truth read out of the Text.
• We must avoid the Hazard of Overconfidence and say to ourselves, everyday, “I can learn something here, not.... I already know that.”

Read Chapters 29- What Type of Literature is This?
Read Chapters 30- Content (Keys to Interpretation #1)
Read Chapters 31- Context (Keys to Interpretation #2)

What did we learn/discover?
• We discovered the true-to-life aspects of Abraham, Moses, Saul, Peter & John Mark!
• We have completed our Observation Skill building section, having started with a verse, expanded to a paragraph and then a section.

Read Chapters 26 – Facts are Stupid Things until......
      a. Follow the 6-day reading pattern suggested.
      b. Write your observations each day from the suggested perspective
      c. Post a short summary of what you learned on the Friday Fellowship blog.

Read Chapters 27 –“The Value of Interpretation” and review the main points
  1. Do you understand what you’re reading?
  2. What do we mean by interpretation?
  3. The Construction of meaning
  4. Why Interpretation?
      a. Language Barriers
      b. Cultural Barriers
      c. Literary Barriers
      d. Communication Barriers

We will discuss Chapter 28 together as a group.
  1. Hazards to Avoid
      a. Distorting the text
      b. Contradicting the text
      c. Subjectivism
      d. Relativism
      e. Overconfidence
  2. The Right to Disagree

March 26th, 2010

What did we learn?
• Matthew 5 is heavy lifting and requires all our spiritual muscles!

Read Chapters 22 & 23 (last 3 of the 6 Things To Look For)
1. **Things that are Alike**
   a. Similes
   b. Metaphors

2. **Things that are Unlike**
   a. Use of “but”
   b. Metaphors
   c. Irony

John 11:1-46 for the “you try it” section to practice on your own.

3. **Things that are True to Life**
   a. Issue is Authenticity: What does the passage tell us about reality? What aspects of the text resonate with your experience?
   b. Look for Principles in the text.
   c. Identify with the person in the text:
      i. Thoughts
      ii. Feelings
      iii. Ambitions
      iv. Goals
      v. Problems
      vi. Response of the character and reader

We will go through Matthew 5:17-48 in group breakouts for the 12th.

March 12th, 2010

**What did we learn?**
• Titus 1:5-9 is chocked FULL of great advice, insight and perspective, not only for “elders” but for everyone.
• We pulled off the Great Surprise..... THANK YOU EVERYONE who helped make the evening surprise for Ashley special. That was FUN!
• Pam makes a ham that would make you Slap Yo’ Mama!

Read Chapters 19, 20 & 21 (3 of the 6 Things To Look For)
1. **Things that are Emphasized**
   a. Amount of Space
   b. Stated Purpose
   c. Order
   d. Movement from lesser to greater (and vice versa).

2. **Things that are Repeated**
   a. Terms, phrases, clauses
   b. Characters
   c. Incidents & Circumstances
d. Patterns
e. New Testament use of Old Testament passages

3. Things that are Related
   a. Movement from general to Specific
   b. Questions & Answers
   c. Cause & Effect

We will go through Matthew 5:17-48 in group breakouts for the 12th.

March 5th, 2010

What did we learn?
• We missed: David & Michelle Roddy, Ken & Mary Spurlin!
• We were glad to have back: Wendy Lee, David Dean, Tim & LaDonna, & Randy Weaver!
• We were glad to have everyone that was here the week before too!
• We can perform OT Hermeneutics from the book of Judges …… Our learning as individuals is multiplied exponentially when we are able to hear and discuss what we have gleaned from our reading. Christ is the true and better Judge (Hebrew word sapat = savior, deliver, liberator) because he is the perfect Judge, appointed by God to save those who will believe on his name and he lives eternal: ¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ²As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. ¹Peter 4:1-6).
• Personalized prayer and song from scripture can be powerful, moving, inspirational, healing, and motivational.

Read Chapters 18 (during the week work on the exercise of Nehemiah 1:4-11)

Ch 18 – Working with a paragraph. The paragraph is the most basic unit of study (use Nehemiah 1:4-11 during this week’s preparation).
1. Check the context. Verse begins with NOW (a connective).
2. Check for clues (what do I find, what do I notice, what does this refer to?). BOMBARD this text with your questions.
3. Label your observations.
4. No detail is trivial.
REMEMBER IT IS DIRECTION, NOT SPEED we are after in this study.

WE WILL PRACTICE OUR 10-STRATEGIES ON FIRST RATE READING IN TITUS 1:5-9 AS A GROUP ON MARCH 5th.
February 26th, 2010

What did we learn?

- We missed: Wendy Lee, David Dean, Tim & LaDonna, David & Michelle Roddy, Randy Weaver, Ken & Mary Spurlin!
- Again…… Our learning as individuals is multiplied exponentially when we are able to hear what others have gleaned from their reading.
- Personalized prayer from scripture can be powerful, moving, inspirational, healing, and motivational.
- We caught a glimpse of what the conversation might have been like between Jesus and the two men on the road to Emmaus and how Jesus opened their eyes to see what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah and how he was that fulfillment.

Read Chapters 14, 15, 16 & 17 (They are not long)

Ch 14 – Reading Meditatively


Ch 15 – Reading Purposefully – STRUCTURE IS THE DOORWAY TO UNDESTANDING THE AUTHOR’S PURPOSE.

1. Grammatical structure – Many biblical authors communicate their mind through carefully selected grammatical structure. Grammatical features of the text include:
   - Verbs
   - Subject & Object
   - Modifiers
   - Prepositional Phrases
   - Connectives

2. Literary Structure – Biblical writers communicate their purpose through literary structure,
   - Biographical structure
   - Geographical structure
   - Historical structure
   - Chronological structure
   - Ideological structure

On Your Own – Complete the YOU TRY IT section on your own.

Ch 16 – Reading Acquisitively – READING NOT ONLY TO RECEIVE IT BUT TO RETAIN IT.

1. We need personal, active involvement in the word. “I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”

On Your Own – Complete the YOU TRY IT section on your own.

Ch 17 – Reading Telescopically, viewing parts in light of the whole.
1. Look for connectives.
2. Pay attention to context
3. Evaluate the passage in light of the book as a whole
4. Look at the historical context of the book

WE WILL DO THE “YOU TRY IT” SECTION AS A GROUP ON THE 26TH.

February 19th, 2010

What did we learn?

- Reading patiently really means we have to be patient with ourselves, as much or more than the text were reading.
- Our learning as individuals is multiplied exponentially when we are able to hear what others have gleaned from their reading.
- We are “picking up the pace” in our study but still focused on DIRECTION, more importantly than SPEED!

Read Chapters 11, 12 & 13

Ch 11 – Reading Selectively (Using the right questions when reading)

3. Who- who are the people involved?
   o What is said about them?
   o What does the person say?

4. What – what is happening in the text (events, order, characters, what is the argument, what is the point what is the writer trying to communicate)?

5. Where – This gives you the location.
   o Where is the narrative taking place?
   o Where are the people in the story?
   o Where are they coming from?
   o Where is the writer?
   o Where the original readers of this text?

6. When – This is a question of time.
   o When did the events take place?
   o When did they occur in relation to other events in scripture?
   o When was the writer writing?

7. Wherefore – So What & Who Cares (SWWC)?
   o What difference would it make if I were to apply this truth? The word of God was not written to satisfy our curiosity, it was written to change our lives.

For Next Friday - Read Luke 24:13-35 and go through the 6 questions from above. If you want, post your findings on the blog http://6sbgd.wordpress.com/category/friday-fellowship/ and bring them with you on Friday (17th).

Ch 12 – Read Prayerfully – Bible Study and Prayer DON’T have to be separate disciplines. Learn to ask God the tough questions about the text your studying.

Tips for learning how to pray.

1. Don’t try to imitate other Christians. Two groups to imitate:
   o Children – refreshing and realistic.
   o New Converts – They have not learned all the jargon.
2. Turn Scripture into prayer.

For Next Friday - Pick ONE of the three options (Psalm 23, IS 40:28-31, or Philippians 4:8-9) and personalize the prayer with “me” “my” or “I”. Be ready to share on Friday.

Ch 13 – Read Imaginatively
1. Use different translations
2. Rewrite the text in your own paraphrase
3. Read in a different language (if you speak one).
4. Have someone read aloud
5. Vary your setting.

For Next Friday – Pick one of the four options under “You Try It”.
2. Psalm 19 Physics or Philosophy class rewrite.
3. 1 Samuel 17 rewritten for a gang of inner city youths
   OR
4. Acts 15:22-29 Rewrite the passage as a fax or email to a group of believers who meet in downtown Nashville, TN.

February 12th, 2010

Read Chapters 9 &10
PRE-READING ASSIGNMENT! READ THE OLD TETAMENT BOOK OF ESTER, every day this week.

• Use the suggestions below for reading repeatedly.
• Make a list of your OBSERVATIONS, how many things you learned.
• By the end of seven days, see how accurately you can reconstruct the story by telling it to someone else.

1. (Ch 9) Read Repeatedly
   a. Read in one setting
   b. Start at the beginning
   c. Read different translations
   d. Listen to tapes of Scripture
   e. Read out loud
   f. Set a schedule for Bible Reading

2. (Ch 10) Read Patiently
   a. Work with one book, for one month
   b. Zoom in and zoom out.
   c. Alter your approach

Two Principals to remember with Patient Reading:
• Be patient with the text.
• Be patient with yourself.

February 5th, 2010

What did we learn?
God is doing great things in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ and we were blessed by the many testimonies shared Friday night. God was glorified with your praise and thanksgiving and the “rocks did not have to cry out!”

- We experienced echo-chamber reading and still were able to learn and function!
- We learned that Kim needs to double the brownie recipe!
- We learned our appetite can be increased for the Word and we can become spiritual Giants when we improve our reading skills.

**Read Chapters 7 & 8**

1. You must learn to Read: Reasons people STOP their efforts at Bible Study (LIST YOUR REACTIONS TO THESE REASONS).
   a. We don’t know HOW to read. Reading is a skill that can always be improved. Learning to read better and faster will improve your ability to OBSERVE. Learn to read as for THE FIRST TIME.
   b. We don’t know what to look for.
      i. Having a plan, ahead of time will help you read better and know what to look for. We outlined a number of useful questions from Chapter 5. We also developed a set of questions for reading Philemon.

2. SOLUTIONS:
   a. Learn to read better, faster. Learn to classify books, discover an author’s intentions, outline a book, and find key terms. Learn how to read history books, practical books, imaginative books and more. Pam, Cheryl and Michele all commented that they were able to put their new reading/observation techniques to work in the last two weeks!
   b. Learn to read, as for the first time. Familiarity breeds contempt (and ignorance). DANGER – “I already know that”.
      i. Read the Bible as a Love letter. If you can, dig out an old card or letter, one that dates back years, between you and your spouse, parent, brother or sister. Begin to read through it and compare the feelings, emotions and perspective your able to get with what Paul, Peter or Luke might have had when writing one of their letters over 2000 years ago.

**10 STRATEGIES TO FIRST-RATE READING.** Read: Thoughtfully, Repeatedly, Patiently, Selectively, Prayerfully, Imaginatively, Meditatively, Purposefully, Acquisitively, and Telescopically.

3. Learning to Read Thoughtfully (the Bible does not yield its fruit to the lazy)

   **Proverbs 2:1-12.** My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright; he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the
just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse.

4. Read Philemon in advance for a group breakout: This was a GREAT discussion. What was discovered, learned, and shared from this beautiful letter, in a matter of 30 minutes, was amazing!

   a. Questions we answered:
      i. What is the relationship between Paul, Onesimus & Philemon?
      ii. Reconstruct the situation.
      iii. What feelings are involved?
      iv. What practical considerations?
      v. What questions are unanswered as you read the letter?
      vi. What problems does the letter create?
      vii. What issues does the letter speak too?
      viii. Why is this letter included in the Bible?

   b. How would you communicate the insights gained from the group exercise to someone else (TEACH BACK).

Session Two 1-22-2010

Read chapter 5 (The Value of Observation) & Chapter 6 (Let’s Start with a Verse).

1. Observation “What do I see?”
   a. Group exercises on observation skills
      i. In this phase of the process, we are not after speed, but direction. Good observation requires time, effort, skill, inquiry, etc, etc. The 12 objects exercise often reveals that our general inclination is to try to do more (how many objects) vs. doing more (how much about an object). In our study of the Bible, we must SLOW DOWN TO SPEED UP. Focus on how much about the passage not how much passage.

   b. “The Watch” (capture your initial reaction and thoughts after reading the Sherlock Holmes example on observation skills).

2. The Observation Process (using Acts 1:8, make your own notes on the text below to follow Hendricks)
   a. Start with Terms Remember TRUNK? What do the key terms force us to do with the passage? What is the Atmosphere?

   b. Who are the people involved?

   c. Watch for cause-effect relationships

   d. Define the terms
e. Importance of place

f. Relate the verse to the book/letter as a whole

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:8

3. Now try Joshua 1:8 on your own and come prepared to share with the group your observations. Group break-out.

What we learned this time:
- Tim had a Sherlock Holmes Games (Jay was not shocked by that).
- Danny went on a Strawberries & Cream diet this week with the LETTER of ACTS.
- Kim LOVES breakouts and group exercises (we all do)!
- LaDonna could not wait to see what was under the tablecloth.
- We learned we made SAUSAGE TONIGHT!

Session 1, 1-15-2010

Purpose of the study: Through a shared learning experience using God’s word, our spiritual gifts and the study methods in Hendricks’s resource, we can better understand the life changing truth in God’s Word so that we may glorify God and impact the world around us.

Feedback - EXPECTATIONS FROM OUR STUDY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectation</th>
<th>Feedback/consensus</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship &amp; study with peers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Understand the word (application)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop/nurture a passion for studying the word</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop more time with God during the week</td>
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</tbody>
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QUOTES THAT STAND OUT
“More than words on a page” “Excited about or fellowship time together” “Looking forward to… “I need this.....”

Discussion topics:

1. Why people don’t study their Bible:
   a. They don’t think it is relevant.
   b. We have lost our ability to read.
   c. “I am not qualified to read & understand”
   d. Bible study does not take a high priority for our time.
   e. We don’t view the Bible as relevant, authentic and credible.
   f. It’s boring.

Did anybody ever tell you what you would gain from studying your Bible?

2. Benefits of studying our Bible: Hendricks listed 3 reasons, than added a 4th.
a. Essential for Spiritual Growth (I Peter 2:2) “like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk….”
b. Essential for Spiritual Maturity (Hebrews 5:11-14) Are you moving on to college or still in the kindergarten of spiritual schooling?
c. Essential for Spiritual Maturity (II Timothy 3:16-17) If your spiritual life depended on your knowledge of Deuteronomy, how would you make out?
d. Profitable for training in righteous living. ”If you don’t know anymore about your business profession than you know about Christianity after the same number of years of exposure, what would happen?”

3. Benefits of having a Bible Study Method
   a. Simple, proven process that you will never outgrow. “the usefulness of the tool increases with the skill of the craftsman.”
   b. Gain self-confidence in your ability to handle scripture. “It gives you confidence to think for yourself. Most people don’t think, they just rearrange their prejudices.”
   c. You will experience the joy of personal discovery as you invest in personal discovery of the truth in God’s word. “Most people are not excited about the truth, they are embalmed by it.”
   d. Deepen your relationship with God. “If you want to know God directly, you need to encounter his word directly.”

COSTS: Effort, Openness to God, Openness to Change

Getting Started:
1. Set reasonable goals (These questions may be helpful)
   a. What needs in your life need to be addressed?
   b. Are there relationships that need to be healed, cultivated, or altered
   c. Are there attitudes that need to be changed or reinforced?
   d. Are there habits that you need to break or form?
2. Adjust your expectations. “In Bible study, it is not speed that is important, but direction”

4. An overview of the process. Method = “Methodicalness” and the “Methodicalness” is designed to deliver an end-product. “The end product is that the Word of God will CONFORM US TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST”
   a. Observation “what do I see?”
   b. Interpretation “what does it mean?”
   c. Application “how does it work?”