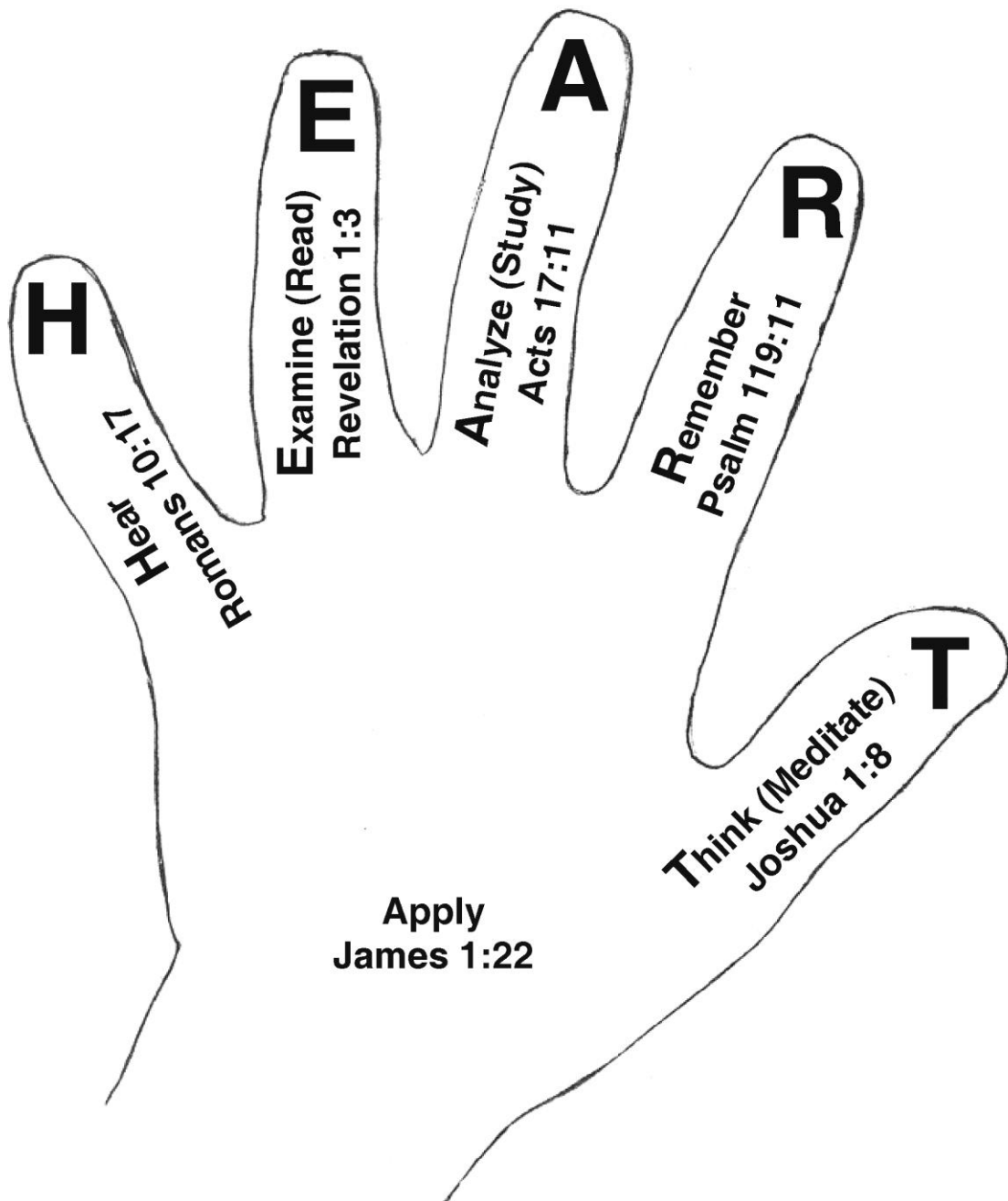


SESSION 2-1
NEWCOMERS CLASS
Getting the Most Out of Your Bible
Getting a Grip on God's Word
II Timothy 3:16-17



1. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD.

Problem: We forget 95 % of what we hear after 72 hours.

Ways to improve in this area:

a) Be eager.

“So Eli told Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”’ I Samuel 3:9a

b) Beware of Word destroyers. Luke 8:4-15.

(1) A closed mind

“As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on and the birds of the air ate it up.” (v. 5)

(2) A shallow faith

“Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.” (v. 6)

(3) A preoccupied life

“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.” (v. 7)

c) Confess sin.

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” James 1:21

d) Take notes

“Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:9

e) Become a **doer**.

“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:25

2. HOW TO **EXAMINE** GOD’S WORD.

“It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees.”

Deuteronomy 17:19

a) Develop a **plan**.

b) Use different **translations**

c) Read it **out loud**

d) Read for **quality** not **quantity**.

(See enclosed Bible reading plans)

“When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.” Jeremiah 15:16.

3. HOW TO ANALYZE GOD'S WORD.

Secret: Ask the right questions – who, what, when, where, why, how.

Tools

a) Study Bibles

- The Life Application Bible
- Thompson Chain Reference Bible
- NIV Study Bible
- The Disciples Study Bible

b) Bible handbooks (tell you about people, history, background)

- Haley's Bible Handbook
- Eerdmann's Bible Handbook

c) Computer programs.

d) Bible dictionary.

e) Commentaries

f) Bible atlas.

4. HOW TO REMEMBER GOD'S WORD.

“Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.” Proverbs 7:2-3

Benefits:

- a) Helps me resist temptation.

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11

- b) Gives wisdom in decision making.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

- c) Brings strength in trying times.

“Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise renews my life.” Psalm 119:50

- d) Helps me as a witness.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15b

5. HOW TO THINK (meditate) ON GOD'S WORD.

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” Psalm 1:2-3

HOW ?

a) **Picture** it.

b) **Paraphrase** it.

c) **Pick out** key words or thoughts.

d) **Pose** questions.

e) **Personalize** the truths.

f) **Pray** it back to God.

Is there a/an:

Disposition to change (attitude?)

Initiative to obey?

Gift for which to be thankful?

Example to pursue?

Sin to confess?

Truth to claim?

6. HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD.

“...but whosoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:19b

3 key questions:

- a) What did it mean then?
- b) What is the timeless principle?
- c) What does it mean for me today?

Design an action step in one sentence.

Four goals of application:

- a) Personal
- b) Practical
- c) Possible
- d) Measurable

7. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.” Proverbs 7:1-3

WHEN TO MEMORIZE:

- 1) During your devotional time.
- 2) Use time that you use for something else – while you exercise, mow the lawn, vacuum the floor, cook, clean, rake, drive.

Ephesians 5:15-16 says, “*Be careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, **making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.***”

- 3) At bedtime – “*On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.*”
Psalm 63:6

HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE:

- 1) Pick a verse that speaks to your heart. (See a list on the following page.)
- 2) Memorize the reference (John 3:16)
- 3) Read the verse out loud over and over. Write it down.
- 4) Read the context of the verse (several verses before and after) to better understand the meaning of the verse.
- 5) Break the verse down into bite size phrases.
- 6) Emphasize different words, key words as you repeat it.
- 7) Carry the verse with you on a card.
- 8) Ask someone to help you memorize.
- 9) Review, review, review.
- 10) Visualize the verse, do it, sing it, pray it back to God; use it as often as possible.

Psalm 119:105 “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*”

Live the New Life:

Christ the Center	2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Rom. 12:1; John 14:21
The Word	2 Tim. 3:16; Joshua 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7; Phil. 4:6-7
Fellowship	Matt. 18:20; Heb. 10:24
Witnessing	Matt. 4:19; Rom. 1:16

Proclaim Christ:

All Have Sinned	Rom. 3:34; Isa. 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Rom. 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not By Works	Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12; Rev. 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13; John 5:24

Rely on God's Resources:

His Spirit	1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:12
His Strength	Isa. 41:10; Phil. 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lam. 3:22; Num. 23:9
His Peace	Isa. 26:3; 1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	Rom. 8:32; Phil. 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Heb. 2:18; Ps. 119:9, 11

Be Christ's Disciple:

Put Christ First	Matt. 6:33; Luke 9:23
Separate from the World	1 John 2:15-16; Rom. 12:2
Be Steadfast	1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 12:3
Serve Others	Mark 10:45; 2 Cor. 4:5
Give Generously	Prov. 3:9-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-7
Develop World Vision	Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20

Grow in Christ Likeness:

Love	John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:18
Humility	Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:5-6
Purity	Eph. 5:3; 1 Peter 2:11
Honesty	Lev. 19:11; Acts 24:16
Faith	Heb. 11:6; Rom. 4:20-21
Good Works	Gal. 6-10; Matt. 5:16