



NEXT STEPS IN CHRIST

10-WEEK STUDY IN
THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

Each week's questions will take you on a journey to study one passage of the book of Colossians over the course of five days. These questions are designed to equip you with good Inductive Bible study methods, learning to **observe** the passage through the lens of the original audience, **interpret** the passage through the lens of Christ's full plan of redemption, and **apply** the passage through the lens of a 21st Century follower of Jesus.

Here are some key skills you will develop:

1. **Observation Skills** – You will practice isolating the different parts of a passage and see how they relate to one another using basic grammar skills.
2. **Interpretation Skills** – You will learn how to use the features you observed to discover the author's intent. You will also learn how to use the whole context of the book and cross-references in the Bible to check and deepen meaning and understanding.
3. **Application Skills** – You will be challenged to create faithful and specific applications that are in line with the author's original intent for writing.

We urge you to make the most of this study, devoting yourself to daily reading and prayerful study. Each time you sit down with God's word, you can follow this pattern:

Pray – Ask God to give you understanding and to transform you through his word.

Read – Read slowly and carefully. Use the daily study questions to continually add to your understanding.

Pray – Ask God to impress what you have read upon your heart. Pray for the opportunity to share it with someone else, and pray for others in our church as they seek to walk in this truth with you.

Share – Talk to someone else about what God is revealing to you through his word. This might be another member of your Gospel Community, a mentor, a disciple, or even an unbeliever.

Finally, we hope you will take advantage of all the resources available at www.oakhillfellowship.com/colossians. Find free online tools like Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias and Greek lexicons on biblestudytools.com.

INTRODUCTION

Walk. Take one foot and place it in front of the other. Repeat with the opposite foot. Do it again and again until you get to the place you are going. Just. Keep. Walking.

Walking is so simple that most of us barely give it much thought. We might feel the burn if the terrain gets rough or grow tired if we need to climb uphill for a long time, but most of the time, we hardly notice we are doing it. Yet if we sustain a traumatic injury or somehow lose our ability to walk, we find that the mechanics of walking are far more complex than we might first assume. Through rehab, the injured person must retrain their brain to send signals to muscles and nerves all over their body, and those parts must receive them, interpret them, and put them into motion in simultaneous cooperation. *Walking is a miracle.*

It is this simple but complex image of walking that the New Testament often uses to describe our relationship with God. "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **WALK IN HIM...**" (Col. 2:6, ESV, *emphasis mine*). Relationship with the Lord is as simple as one foot in front of the other in the direction of his glory. Just take the next step. However, as we begin to do this, we encounter complexities. The direction Jesus has us walking is not natural to our flesh and is pressing against our culture. Sometimes we feel like it might be impossible to move another inch. We must *learn* to walk in him, and we must *trust* that he will get us there.

The key to walking with the Lord is to understand that he provides the instruction, motivation, and energy to get where we need to go. "**Him** we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present **everyone mature in Christ**. For this I toil, struggling with **all his energy** that he powerfully works within me" (Col. 1:28-29, ESV, *emphasis mine*). Maturity in Christ is our destination and walking in Christ - in his power and presence - is our way to get there. The Lord gives us his word, his presence accessed through prayer, and his people to keep us walking in the right direction.

In this way, walking with the Lord is both simple AND requires a miracle of God's own doing. The Lord has set our course and he will make sure we get there as we take our next steps in him. That is why we have set our vision for our study in Colossians:

That every person would identify and take their next steps in Christ.

EXAMPLE STUDY

1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

14 ¶1a I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. |b 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

¶2a. He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

"I" = Paul
"you" = Timothy
"we" = Either Paul/Timothy
or the whole church
"He" = Jesus Christ

a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.

1a - Paul is writing so that Timothy would know how each one ought to behave in the church

1b - The mystery of godliness is great

2b - The cosmic work of Jesus is the great mystery of godliness.

b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.

1 - Timothy must ensure that each member of Christ's family knows how they must behave for the sake of the confession that produces that behavior.

2 - The cosmic work of Jesus is the way the church can behave as she ought.

c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

Timothy, it is essential that you know how each person must behave in the church to protect and preserve the gospel truth that transforms us.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - CONTEXT

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

BEFORE: Paul just finished writing about the qualifications for elders and deacons. A number of the qualifications include the "household life" of the leaders.

AFTER: Paul contrasts those who depart from "the faith" and those who "believe and know the truth."

THEMES - Later in chapter 4 and even more in chapter 5, Paul advocates for relationships in the church that look like family relationships (especially brother/sister language)

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - GOSPEL CONNECTION

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

The confession references many aspects of the work of Christ that creates the "mystery of godliness" -

MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH = Incarnation

VINDICATED BY THE SPIRIT = Righteous Life, Death, Resurrection in the power of the Spirit

SEEN BY ANGELS = Witness of the Heavenly Beings of the Church

PROCLAIMED AMONG THE NATIONS/ BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD = Advancement of the Gospel Through the Church

TAKEN UP IN GLORY = Current Reign

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

GODLINESS -

CREATION - The Lord created man and woman "in his own image-likeness" (i.e. to be godly) They were to be his family.

FALL - Man and woman depart from the truth and fail to behave in any reflection of godliness.

REDEMPTION - Jesus came to redeem a people for himself who would be restored to reflect his godliness

FUTURE RESTORATION - One day the church will be fully godly as Christ is - the "hymn" in this writing will have an ultimate fulfillment.

DAY 5: APPLICATION - MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

AUTHOR'S MESSAGE - Timothy, make sure the church knows how they are supposed to relate as a family so that the powerful, transforming truth of the gospel can be seen for what it truly is.

IMPLICATION - I must know how to relate to others in the church, and do so in the power of the gospel.

APPLICATION - This week, I will text the other members of my G.C. reminding of these gospel truths and telling them how important they are to me as my brothers and sisters in Christ.

WEEK 1

COLOSSIANS 1:1-12

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 2

COLOSSIANS 1:13-23

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 3

COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:5

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 4

COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 5

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 6

COLOSSIANS 3:1-14

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 7

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 8

COLOSSIANS 3:18-21

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 9

COLOSSIANS 3:22-4:6

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?

WEEK 10

COLOSSIANS 4:7-18

DAY 1: OBSERVATION - STRUCTURE

1. Mark where the translators changed paragraphs with a ¶ symbol.
2. Number each paragraph: "1,2, etc."
3. Put a | line between each sentence and label "a,b,c, etc." and start over when you get to a new paragraph in this translation.
4. Underline the main action word of each sentence.
5. Put a square around who or what is doing that action (or supposed to do the action - if it is an implied "you," write that in).
6. Circle any conjunctions (connecting words like, and, but, because, therefore, for, so that). Notice how these conjunctions connect the main thoughts in the passage.

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord."

18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

- a. Summarize each sentence in as few words as possible.
- b. Summarize each paragraph in as few words as possible.
- c. Summarize the whole passage in as few words as possible.

DAY 2: OBSERVATION - *CONTEXT*

How does this passage relate to the paragraph before and after? Are there any themes or images in this passage that show up elsewhere in this book? How does this serve the author's overall argument (what would we lose if this passage wasn't here)?

DAY 3: INTERPRETATION - *GOSPEL CONNECTION*

What specific part of the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) is referenced? How does the author use this part of the gospel?

DAY 4: INTERPRETATION - *BIBLICAL THEOLOGY*

How does this passage relate to God's plan in Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Restoration (the whole storyline of the Bible)?

DAY 5: APPLICATION - *MAIN POINT / ACTIONABLE RESPONSE*

What is the author's main message to his primary audience? What does this mean for our church and your life? How will you apply this personally?



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1 W. 4th Street, Quarryville, PA 17566
www.oakhillfellowship.com