

The Elementary Steps in Bible Study

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Lesson 1 Key Thought

1. Bible Study defined

Study Bible is to discover the intent of the author accurately and apply the truths accordingly.

c.f. 2Tim 2:15
James 1:25

“To discover is to obtain insight or knowledge the first to ascertain, unearth, explore. A discoverer is one who finds out things for himself.”

“It is only when truth is discovered that it is appropriated. When a man is simply told the truth, it remains external to him and he can easily forget it. When he is led to discover the truth himself, it becomes an integral part of him.”

2. Learning a skill

“It is very possible to learn the skills in study and come out only with intellectual knowledge, but this need not be, nor is it likely to happen. The pianist or the star baseball player is the one who has mastered and the skills of playing so that mechanics have become second nature and he is free to play his best. In the same way, when you learn some of these rather mechanical skills of study, you will gain deeper insights into the truths in the Bible and the Holy Spirit will have a free course in your life.”

3. Key thought

Key Thought is the main teaching, subject or thought the author intend to communicate in the content of the verse. e.g. Phil 4:1 the key thought is ‘stand firm’; I Pet 4:8 the key thought is ‘love one another’

“Therefore my brothers, you whom I love for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!” (Phil 4:1)

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1Peter 4:8.)

4. Assignment

Determine the key thought in Phil 1:1-11

腓立比書

1 外 基督耶穌的僕人保羅和提摩太，

寫信給凡住腓立比、在基督耶穌裏的眾聖徒和諸位監督、諸位執事；願恩惠、平安從神我們的父並主耶穌基督歸與你們！

感恩與禱告

我每逢想念你們，就感謝我的神；（我每逢為你們眾人祈求的時候，常是歡歡喜喜地祈求。）因為從頭一天直到如今，你們是同心合意地興旺福音。我深信那在你們心裏動了善工的，必成全這工，直到耶穌基督的日子。

我為你們眾人有这样的意念，原是應當的，因你們常在我心裏；無論我是在捆鎖之中，是辯明證實福音的時候，你們都與我一同得恩。我體會基督耶穌的心腸，切切地想念你們眾人，這是神可以給我作見證的。我所禱告的，就是要你們的愛心，在知識和各樣見識上多而又多，使你們能分別是非（或作「喜愛那美好的事」），作誠實無過的人，直到基督的日子；並靠着耶穌基督結滿了仁義的果子，叫榮耀稱讚歸與神。

保羅的捆鎖叫福音興旺

弟兄們，我願意你們知道，我所遭遇的事更是叫福音興旺，以致我受的捆鎖，在御營全軍和其餘的人中，已經顯明是為基督的緣故。並且那在主裏的弟兄，多半因我受的捆鎖，就篤信不疑，越發放膽傳神的道，無所懼怕。

有的傳基督是出於嫉妒紛爭；也有的是出於好意。這一等是出於愛心，知道我是為辯明福音設立的；那一等傳基督是出於結黨，並

Philippians

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

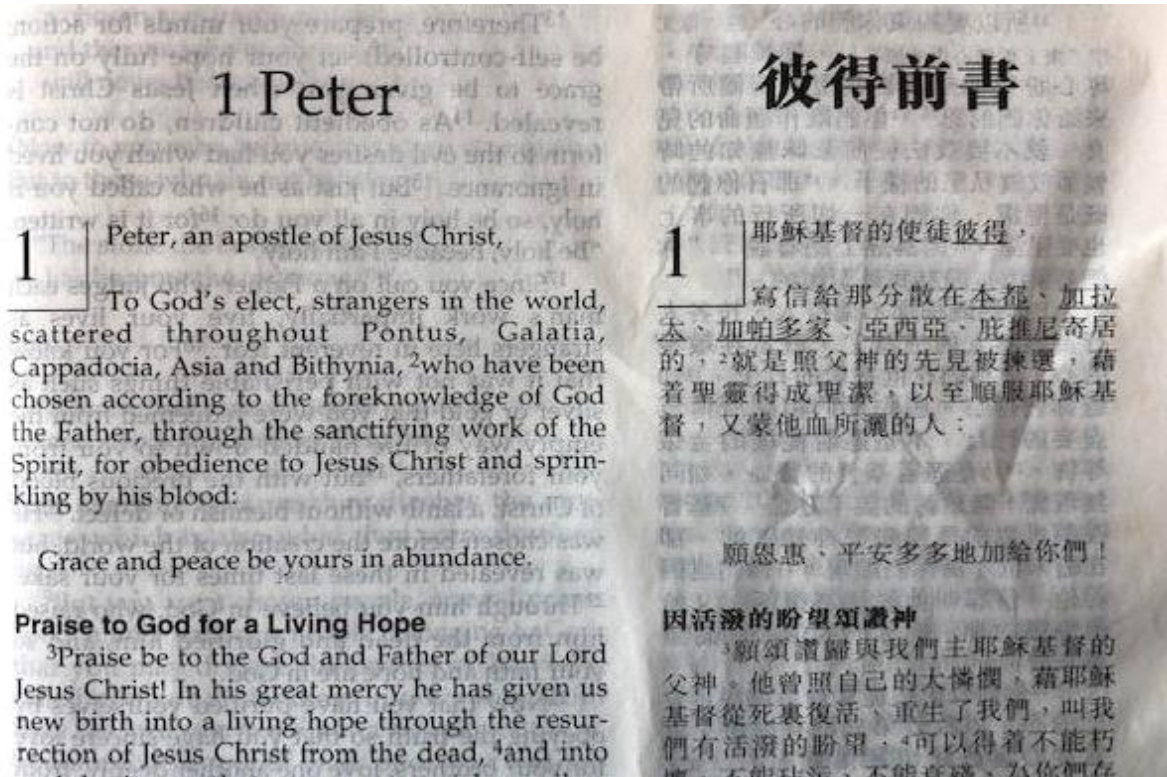
Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sin-

Lesson 2 Flow of Logical Relationships

1. Review the assignment given for Phil 1:1-11
2. There may be difficulties in finding the key thoughts of certain verses. An example would be I Pet 1:3, which contains several truths.



What do you think is the key thought?

Sometimes a key thought occur in a grouping of two verses, e.g. James 3:7,8
What is the key thought here?

Godlessness in the Last Days

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. ⁶They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

末世不敬虔的情形

3 你該知道，末世必有危險的日子來到。²因為那時人要專顧自己、貪愛錢財、自誇、狂傲、謗讟、違背父母、忘恩負義、心不聖潔、³無親情、不解怨、好說謊言、不能自約、性情兇暴、不愛良善、⁴賣主賣友、任意妄為、自高自大、愛宴樂、不愛神、⁵有敬虔的外貌，卻背了敬虔的實意，這等人你要躲開。⁶他們是這等人，他們會鑽進人家，牢籠無知婦女的，正是這等人。這些婦女擔負罪惡，被各樣的私慾引誘，⁷常常學習，終久不能明白真道。⁸從前雅尼和佳庇怎樣敵擋摩西，這等人也怎樣敵擋真道。他們的心地壞了，在真道上是可廢棄的。⁹然而他們不能再這樣敵擋，因為他們的愚昧必在眾人面前顯露出來，像那二人一樣。

3. Flow of logical relationships

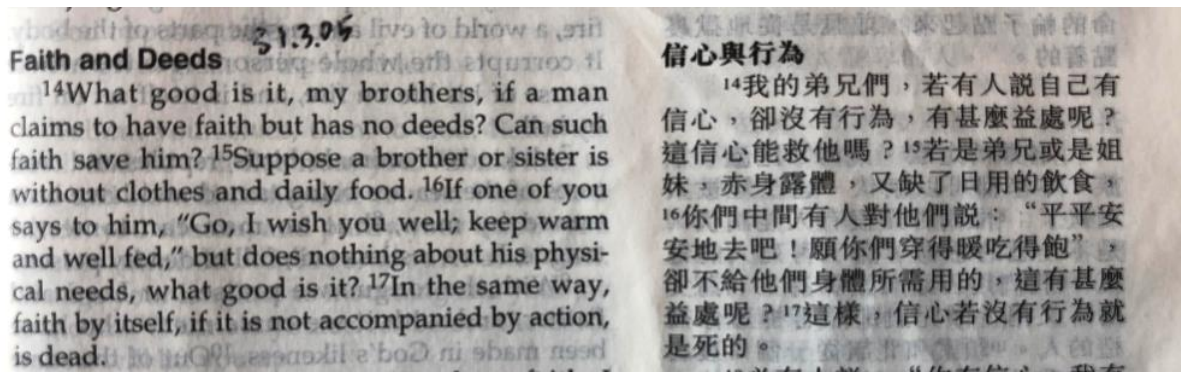
We need to note the flow of ideas in a passage, the relationship of verses to each other. Sometimes the author makes a general statement, then explains it with examples (e.g. 2Tim 3:1-5). Other times he may list a series of ideas and then summarise with a general statement (e.g. James 2:14-17) or it may give a command, warning or advice and then back them ultimate reasons, purposes or proofs. Or he may enlarge and elaborate on the key idea that has been presented.

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3 你該知道，末世必有危險的日子來到。²因為那時人要專顧自己、貪愛錢財、自誇、狂傲、謗讟、違背父母、忘恩負義、心不聖潔、³無親情、不解怨、好說謊言、不能自約、性情兇暴、不愛良善、⁴賣主賣友、任意妄為、自高自大、愛宴樂、不愛神、⁵有敬虔的外貌，卻背了敬虔的實意，這等人你要躲開。



Exercise: Trace the flow of ideas in Phil 1:1-11

4. Assignment

Determine the key thoughts for Phil 1:12-30 and observe the presentation of ideas and their relationships

Lesson 3 Summary and Key Verse

1. Review the assignment given

2. Summary and key verse

It has been observed that a passage contain verses that are related to one another. Often times, these verses seem to focus on the same topic. After having determined the key thoughts and traced the relationships of verses, we can summarise all the key thoughts with a word or phrase.

It can also be found that there is a verse in the passage being studied that is the key centre of the whole passage. This verse normally reflects or summarise all the key thoughts in the passage.

Exercise: Summarise the whole chapter of Phil 1

3. Assignment

Study Phil 2:1-18

- a) summarising the passages
- b) looking for the meanings of these words and phrases:
 - v.1 fellowship with the spirit
 - v.2 spirit and purpose
 - v.12 work out your own salvation
 - v.16 holding forth the word of life

cerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.^a ¹⁸But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^b ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

不誠實，意思要加增我捆鎖的苦楚。
¹⁸這有何妨呢？或是假意；或是真心，無論怎樣，基督究竟被傳開了。

為此，我就歡喜，並且還要歡喜。

¹⁹因為我知道，這事藉着你們的祈禱和耶穌基督之靈的幫助，終必叫我得救。²⁰照着我所切慕、所盼望的，沒有一事叫我羞愧。只要凡事放膽，無論是生是死，總叫基督在我身上照常顯大。²¹因我活着就是基督，我死了就有益處。²²但我在肉身活着，若成就我工夫的果子，我就不知道該挑選甚麼。²³我正在兩難之間，情願離世與基督同在，因為這是好得無比的。²⁴然而，我在肉身活着，為你們更是要緊的。²⁵我既然這樣深信，就知道仍要住在世間，且與你們眾人同住，使你們在所信的道上又長進、又喜樂。²⁶叫你們在基督耶穌裏的歡樂，因我再到你們那裏去，就越發加增。

只要你們行事為人與基督的福音相稱，叫我或來見你們，或不在你們那裏，可以聽見你們的景況，知道你們同有一個心志，站立得穩，為所信的福音齊心努力。²⁸凡事不怕敵人的驚嚇，這是證明他們沉淪，你們得救，都是出於神。²⁹因為你們蒙恩，不但得以信服基督，並要為他受苦。³⁰你們的爭戰，就與你們在我身上從前所看見、現在所聽見的一樣。

所以，在基督裏若有甚麼勸勉，愛心有甚麼安慰，聖靈有甚麼交通，心中有甚麼慈悲憐憫，²你們就要意念相同，愛心相同，有一樣的心思，有一樣的意念，使我的喜樂可以滿足。³凡事不可結黨，不可貪圖虛浮的榮耀；只要存心謙卑，各人看別人比自己強。⁴各人不要單顧自己的事，也要顧別人的事。

效法基督的謙卑

2 所以，在基督裏若有甚麼勸勉，愛心有甚麼安慰，聖靈有甚麼交通，心中有甚麼慈悲憐憫，²你們就要意念相同，愛心相同，有一樣的心思，有一樣的意念，使我的喜樂可以滿足。³凡事不可結黨，不可貪圖虛浮的榮耀；只要存心謙卑，各人看別人比自己強。⁴各人不要單顧自己的事，也要顧別人的事。

⁵你們當以基督耶穌的心為心。

Lesson 4: Seek to Know the Meaning of Words

- 1. Review the assignment given**
- 2. Seek to know the meaning of words**

Understand the meaning of words precede the understanding of the passage.

- a) The first step in determining the meaning of words is to ask questions. When question are used, words, phrases and statements that seem understandable prove to be vague and need clarification.

Questions we can use are:

- Why did the author say,...?
 - What is the meaning of ...?
 - What was on his mind when he said ...?
 - What is the implication of ...?
 - What is the relationship between...?
- b) Problem words fall into two categories:
 - Words that we know but their usage eludes our appreciation e.g. 'prize' in Phil 3:14
 - Words that we do not understand e.g. 'circumcised' in Phil 3:3

25But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 28Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, 30because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

No Confidence in the Flesh

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

2Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— 4though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

7But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing on Toward the Goal

12Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward

25然而，我想必須打發以巴弗提到你們那裏去。他是我的兄弟，與我一同做工、一同當兵，是你們所差遣的，也是供給我需用的。26他很想念你們眾人，並且極其難過，因為你們聽見他病了。27他實在是病了，幾乎要死。然而，神憐恤他，不但憐恤他，也憐恤我，免得我憂上加憂。28所以我越發急速打發他去，叫你們再見他，就可以喜樂，我也可以少些憂愁。29故此，你們要在主裏歡歡樂樂地接待他，而且要尊重這樣的人，30因他為做基督的工夫，幾乎至死，不顧性命，要補足你們供給我的不及之處。

不靠肉體

3 弟兄們，我還有話說：你們要靠主喜樂。我把這話再寫給你們，於我並不為難，於你們卻是妥當。

2應當防備犬類，防備作惡的，防備妄自行割的。3因為真受割禮的，乃是我們這以神的靈敬拜，在基督耶穌裏誇口，不靠著肉體的。4其實我也可以靠肉體。

若是別人想他可以靠肉體，我更可以靠着了。5我第八天受割禮，我是以色列族、便雅憫支派的人，是希伯來人所生的希伯來人；就律法說，我是法利賽人；6就熱心說，我是逼迫教會的；就律法上的義說，我是無可指摘的。

7只是我先前以為與我有益的，我現在因基督都當作有損的。8不但如此，我也將萬事當作有損的，因我以認識我主基督耶穌為至寶。我為他已經丟棄萬事，看作糞土，為要得着基督，9並且得以在他裏面，不是有自己因律法而得的義，乃是有信基督的義，就是因信神而來的義；10使我認識基督，曉得他復活的大能，並且曉得和他一同受苦，效法他的死，11或者我也得以從死裏復活。

向標竿直跑

12這不是說我已經得着了，已經完全了，我乃是竭力追求，或者可以得着基督耶穌所以得着我的（註：“所以得着我的”或作“所要我得的”）。13弟兄們，我不是以為自己已經得着了，我只有一件事，就是忘記背後，努力面

- c) To find out the meaning, we can:
 - i) Read the context to consider its usage;
 - ii) Compare with other translations to discover what other words are used in translating;
 - iii) Define words with help of commentaries and dictionaries;
 - iv) Study cross references for additional insights e.g. Phil 1:14 with I Cor 2:3 on preaching the word fearlessly;
 - v) Think. We can define words, compare translations, study cross references and still not get to the core of the meaning of a passage. We also have to wrestle, think and meditate on the words.

3. Assignment

Study Phil 2:19-30 and apply the steps that you have learnt

Lesson 5 Meditation

1. Review the assignment given

2. Meditation

When God speaks to us, we should stand still and consider what He is saying. In Bible Study, reflection is the mind and heart at work, utilising all the thinking faculties to concentrate on what the eyes have seen. To meditate profitably, we need to:

- a) Be prayerful - we have to rely on the illumination of the Holy Spirit to open up the richness of His truths to us.
- b) Be imaginative - Try to put yourself into the situation of the Bible passage. Taste and feel every word you read.
- c) Be realistic - The writings of the Bible are recorded in a historical setting. As such, do refrain from viewing the passage through twentieth century glasses.
- d) Be empathic - Identify with the author, recipients or other people concerned. Get under the 'skin' of the characters, sensing their emotions, yearnings, difficulties etc.
- e) Be patient - As the Bible is the revelation of the Infinite God, problems would present themselves. We need to take note of Samuel's plain words to Saul: "Stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the word of God." (I Sam 9:27)

To do this a helpful method is to do a word by word meditation

3. Assignment

Study Phil 3:1-11.

Lesson 6 Observation

1. Review the assignment given

2. Observation

Observation is the act, power or habit of seeing and noting; to be mentally aware of one sees.

The purpose of observation is to saturate oneself with the content of a passage. We need to learn to be exact and accurate in our observation. Not everything we read will be of equal value; therefore, in the process, we also have to learn to discern what is noteworthy and what is not. All these procedures requires concentration.

One reason we do not 'see' very much when we read is that we do not know what to look for. Most of us need 'handles' -- helps in knowing what specific things to look for.

- a) Key words -- look for those words which are important. Repetitions of words will sometimes give us a clue.
- b) Contrasts, comparisons, illustrations -- these are used to bring out the author's ideas.
- c) Repetition & progression of ideas -- take special note of lists of items or ideas. Compare the items and see if there is any significance in the order; if ideas progress toward a climax e.g. 'ashamed of gospel' in II Tim 1.
- d) Connectives -- connectives are very important in revealing key ideas and relationships. Be on the alert for some of the connectives:
 - i. "if" to introduce a conditional clause
 - ii. "therefore" to introduce a summary of ideas, result or condition.
- e) Conjunctions -- "because" or "for" to introduce a reason or result; "but" to introduces a contrast; "in order that" often sets forth a purpose.

3. Assignment

Study the remaining verses in Phil 3

Try to think of ways which you can apply in obedience to the truths observed

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4 我所親愛、所想念的弟兄們，你們就是我的喜樂，我的冠冕！我親愛的弟兄，你們應當靠主站立得穩。

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4 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

Exhortations

²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.³Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow,⁴ help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Lesson 7 Application

1. Discuss your findings and meditations on the previous study

2. Application

If we truly enjoy reading and studying the Bible, we will enjoy putting it into practice. The Psalmist was very excited about the Scriptures that he exclaimed:

“O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” Ps 119:101

Seven lines later he supports this testimony with a word about deeds:

*“I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.”
Ps 119:101*

Application doesn't happen by transformation nor by chance, application is by intent.

- a) Pray for God's voice - we respond to God, not to a rule book, therefore we need to seek God's prompting.
- b) Be ready to obey - the Bible is given to us not merely to increase our knowledge, but also to change our lives as we respond to God's teachings.
- c) Accept the Bible's - we must look at the Bible intently and then at our own lives to see how we can conform to the image of Christ.
- d) Isolate specific applications - it may be a sin to avoid, command to obey, a promise to claim or an example to follow.

A concept I have not appreciated or a mind-set that I must change
An attitude or a feeling that is inappropriate or inadequate
An action that is improper or insufficient

To God, others, society and to myself

Try to make it checkable.

3. Assignment

Study Phil 4:1-9 and applying all the steps learnt

前的，¹⁴向着標竿直跑，要得神在基督耶穌裏從上面召我來得的獎賞。¹⁵所以我們中間凡是完全人，總要存這樣的心；若在甚麼事上存別樣的心，神也必以此指示你們。¹⁶然而我們到了甚麼地步，就當照着甚麼地步行。¹⁷弟兄們，你們要一同效法我，也當留意看那些照我們榜樣行的人。¹⁸因為有許多人行事是基督十字架的仇敵。我屢次告訴你們，現在又流淚地告訴你們，¹⁹他們的結局就是沉淪，他們的神就是自己的肚腹，他們以自己的羞辱為榮耀，專以地上的事為念。²⁰我們卻是天上的國民，並且等候救主，就是主耶穌基督從天上降臨，²¹他要按着那能叫萬有歸服自己的大能，將我們這卑賤的身體改變形狀，和他自己榮耀的身體相似。

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Lesson 8 Putting It All Together

1. Share your discovery on the previous assignment

2. Putting it all together

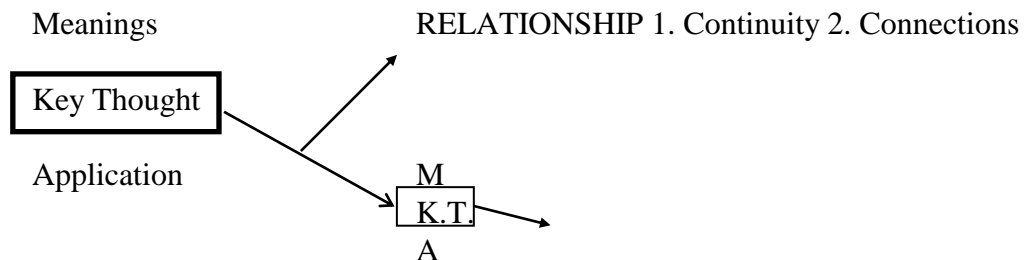
We have been considering the step-by-step study of the passages of a chapter. Now we shall tie them together into a meaningful whole.

When doing a book study, we approach the text by studying a chapter at each sitting.

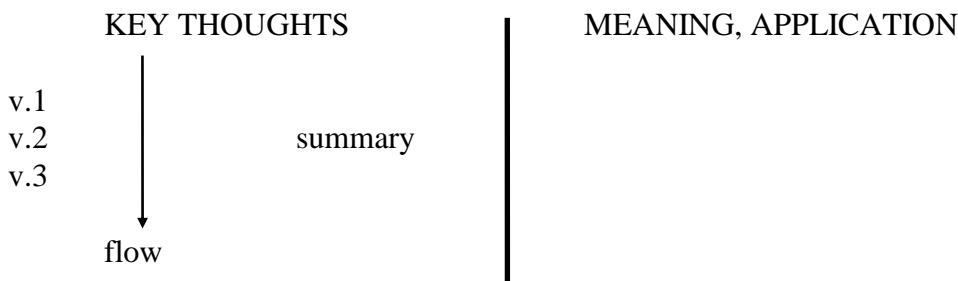
i) First we FAMILIARISE ourselves with the contents of the chapter by reading it several times.

ii) Next we FOCUS on the verses -

- a) defining the meaning of problem words
- b) looking for applications to life
- c) identifying the key thoughts and then
 - tracing the continuity (flow) of ideas and
 - connecting the key thoughts into summaries



To do this, it would be helpful if the study is recorded on two pages as shown below:



3. Assignment

Complete the study of Phil 4

Thanks for Their Gifts

¹⁰I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

¹⁴Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. ¹⁸I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

²¹Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings. ²²All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.^a

感謝餽贈

¹⁰我靠主大大地喜樂，因為你們思念我的心如今又發生；你們向來就思念我，只是沒得機會。¹¹我並不是因缺乏說這話，我無論在甚麼景況都可以知足，這是我已經學會了。¹²我知道怎樣處卑賤，也知道怎樣處豐富，或飽足、或飢餓、或有餘、或缺乏，隨事隨在，我都得了秘訣。¹³我靠着那加給我力量的，凡事都能做。

¹⁴然而你們和我同受患難，原是美事。¹⁵腓立比人哪，你們也知道我初傳福音，離了馬其頓的時候，論到授受的事，除了你們以外，並沒有別的教會供給我。¹⁶就是我在帖撒羅尼迦，你們也一次兩次地打發人供給我的需用。¹⁷我並不求甚麼餽送，所求的就是你們的果子漸漸增多，歸在你們的賬上。¹⁸但我樣樣都有，並且有餘；我已經充足，因我從以巴弗提受了你們的餽送，當作極美的香氣，為神所收納、所喜悅的祭物。¹⁹我的神必照他榮耀的豐富，在基督耶穌裏使你們一切所需用的都充足。

²⁰願榮耀歸給我們的父神，直到永永遠遠。阿們！

最後的問安

²¹請問在基督耶穌裏的各位聖徒安。在我這裏的眾弟兄都問你們安。²²眾聖徒都問你們安。在凱撒家裏的人特特地問你們安。

²³願主耶穌基督的恩常在你們心裏！

Lesson 9 Outline, Title and Key Centre

1. Review the assignment given

2. Outline, title and key centre

- a) Unless we are gifted with a photographic memory, it is impossible for us to retain for very long all the thoughts we obtain in the study of a Bible passage. So we crystallise our study by recording what the author intend to say in an outline form.
- i. first we collect the summaries of the photographs;
 - ii. then we review and evaluate the summaries, changing them if necessary;
 - iii. finally, put them together into an outline.
- b) Not only can we record the chapter in an outline, we can further express the contents in a concise manner by giving a title to the whole chapter.

Just as there is a verse that rounds up or is the key centre of a paragraph, there is a key centre or key verse for the chapter. Very often, the key centre and the title are similar in thought.

Exercise: Summarise Phil 4 and give it the key centre and a title

3. Assignment

Collect your summaries for the whole book of Philippians and put them together into an outline form

Lesson 10 Charting

1. Share your outline of the whole book of Philippians

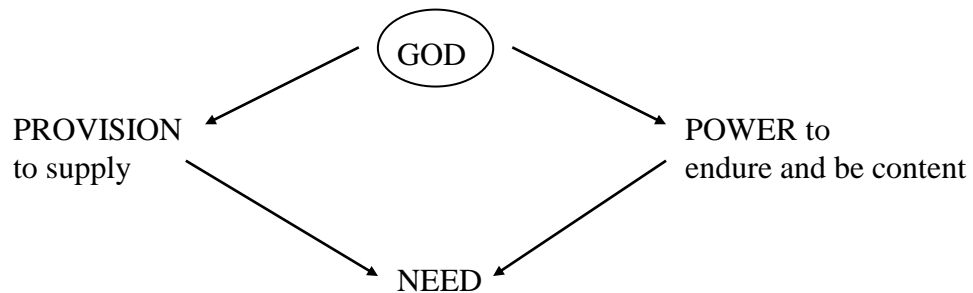
2. Charting

The chart is one of the most effective ways to enable us to grasp the whole picture of chapter or book. It has real value as a study device and equal value as a teaching tool. The purpose of the chart is to block out the contents of a paragraph, chapter or book in such a way that both content and relationships can be more easily seen and understood.

Outline Chart The outline or summary chart is concise and simple, keeping only the key ideas, setting out a bird's eye view of the principal teachings in the chapter or book.

Flow Chart The purpose of the flow or study chart is to record in graphic form the observations made as we study some portion of Scripture. It may be the associations of similar ideas that occur in a passage.

Illustrative Chart An illustrative chart helps us to visualise certain truths taught in a passage. An example of this would be on the sufficiency of God in meeting needs from Phil 4.



Sources:

1. Enjoy Your Bible Irving Jensen
2. Search the Scripture Navigators
3. The Joy of Discovery Oletta Wald