

COMMUNICATION ARTIFACTS

Better Bible Reader Course Outline (working outline)

- I. What Does It See? (OBSERVATION)
 - A. Surface Reading
 1. Don't focus too much on meaning (right now.)
 2. Read the story or passage.
 - B. Report the Facts
 1. What do you see in the passage?
 2. Who, What, When, Where, Why
- II. What Does It Mean? (INTERPRETATION)
 - A. Dig Reading
 1. Take a closer look through CONTEXT.
 2. (Additional tools needed)
 - B. CONTEXT
 1. Historical & Cultural
 2. Literal
- III. How Do I Apply It? (APPLICATION)
 - A. Response Reading
 1. Truth and meaning
 - B. Development
 1. Biblical Worldview
 2. Biblical Principles
 3. Biblical Response

VIDEO OUTLINE

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Video 1: What to Expect From This Course (5 mins.)

Video 2: Why Is It Important to Study the Bible? (10 mins.)

Video 3: Understanding Different Bible Translations (10 mins.)

SECTION TWO: OBSERVATION

Video 1: What Do You See? (5 mins.)

Video 2: The Principles of Observation (10 mins.)

Video 3: Let's Practice (10 mins.)

SECTION THREE: INTERPRETATION

Video 1: What Does It Mean? (5 mins.)

Video 2: The Principles of Interpretation (10 mins.)

Video 3: Let's Practice (10 mins.)

SECTION FOUR: APPLICATION (SUMMER 2024)

Video 1: How Does It Apply? (5 mins.)

Video 2: The Principles of Application (10 mins.)

Video 3: Let's Practice (10 mins.)

MANUSCRIPTS

SECTION ONE

Video 1: What to Expect From This Course (5 min.)

Welcome to Better Bible Reader. I am Leslie, and this is your introduction to becoming a better bible reader. It is so exciting that you have decided to go through this course and I can't wait to share with you the tips that have helped me in my own personal bible study. Whether you are new to reading the bible or have been reading it for a long time, this course is going to be helpful to everyone. If you have been reading the bible for awhile, but want to get better at understanding the text and applying it to your everyday life, you are in the right place! Now, if you are new to reading the bible and you are struggling with how to approach it, I completely get it! When it comes to reading the Bible, I know that it can seem like a daunting task. We look at this massive book with ancient stories in it and if you're like me, I felt unqualified to pick it up and read it. How would I know if I was doing it right? What if there were things that I didn't understand? And once I read it, what am I supposed to do with what I read? I would get so bogged down with where would I even start, how would I understand it, and what was I supposed to do with the information that I read? I would end up just not reading it even though I had the desire to. What if I told you that the Bible is for everyone and you are able to pick it up and study it on your own?

That is what this course is all about! I want to help equip you with tools that are going to set you up to successfully study the Bible on your own. In this course we are going to go over the three main rules for studying the bible. Those three rules are easy to remember and they are observation, interpretation, and application. In each section of the course I am going to walk you through each of these rules and break down how you can start implementing this into your own

bible reading and studying. I will give you more information about each rule, what they mean, and how they work in studying the bible. Now, don't be afraid! This isn't going to be information that is going to go over your head. I have designed this course with you in mind. And you have these videos so that you can pause and go back to things that you didn't get the first time. Everything you are going to learn may challenge the way that you approach the bible, but it will be worth it! My encouragement to you is to go through each video at your own pace. Take notes. While you will be able to come back to these videos, taking notes will help you to remember the information in your own way. Lastly, complete the course. Like I said, it may challenge the way that you approach the bible, but if you stick with it, you will be able to reach deeper in your study of the bible and transform the way you read God's Word.

Video 2: Why Is It Important to Study the Bible? (10 mins.)

(Do I need to re-welcome?)

Before we get into everything, I want to take this time to talk a little bit about your intentions going into this. Let's do a little spiritual check because the Word of God deserves that. I want to ask one question and then let's talk about it. Why is it important for us to study the bible? I want to get into this first because when we study the bible, we are not hoping just to gain knowledge of God, but also that the knowledge of His Word would transform our hearts and how we live out a life of faith in Jesus. Consider this the devotional set-up for the whole course!

In a class once, I had a professor ask the class, "What is truth?" And we all gave our answers of what we believed to be an accurate definition, but my professor gave a definition that completely opened my eyes to the value of having this book; these words! He said, "Truth is whatever conforms to the mind of God." And before we could ask the obvious question, he

continued with, “We learn the mind of God by reading His Word.” In other words, this book, what has been written, is how we learn who God is, how God acts, what He has done, and what He has planned. This is how we grow closer to God, by reading His Word. Truth. It is the foundation upon which we build our entire lives. This is the constant in our lives. This is what we base our decisions off of and how we choose to interact with others. It helps us develop what is called a biblical worldview. Your worldview is the lens you experience everything through.

Another reason why it is important to read and study the Bible is because it tells of the life, ministry, miracles, and sacrifice of the Messiah, Jesus. Both the Old and the New Testament point to the Savior of mankind, the One who would redeem creation, Jesus Christ. Being aware of this information, transforms us. It is what leads us and others to give our lives to Christ in the first place and it is then the standard by which we are called to live. When we read about what Christ did for those in His time, we see the type of Savior that He is. When we read passages in the Old Testament that point to a coming Savior, we see the plans of God for the redemption of mankind. When we see the way Jesus honored His Father, we see how we too should honor our Heavenly Father. How Christ lived should be reflected in our lives, but we can only be a reflection if we take this book and read it and study it.

And one last reason why it is important to read and study the bible is because it is our source of encouragement. All of the things I mentioned before are there to inform us, but to also encourage us. We are meant to be encouraged when we read that God is in control of everything. We are meant to be encouraged when we read and learn that Christ died for us and gave us new life! We are meant to be encouraged by coming to know who we are in a world of uncertainties.

Sermon Feedback:

I was only presented with one opportunity to receive feedback on my communication goal. The following feedback was taken from my Capstone Preaching course. Since these were my classmates and this will be on a public website, I kept their names confidential.

- Your voice inflection/emotion in your voice was really compelling and engaging. Pacing was also great to draw attention to words. I think more eye contact could have been helpful, but I know the text was really long.
- Isa. 41 Reading: Fantastic reading, you had such a good pace and intonation! You demonstrated a really good understanding of the emotional beats of the text through the rise and fall of your intensity in your reading, and you had a good presence on stage while reading as well! It might have been nice to see some more eye contact, but really everything else was so good!
- Cute and clever start up with the Sunday nap. Super engaging and strong emotional cue with the active shooter. It also has a great contrast with the Sunday nap. Subject is clear and meets people where they are. I can see myself asking that: how can i deal with this uncertainty? Background to the text is pretty extensive, but your delivery keeps me engaged and interested.
- You communicate in a very sincere way! Your emotion really comes through as you speak on the nation of Israel and connecting it to us through your own life stories... fear and anxiety are clearly central to your sermon.
- Your facial expressions and movement throughout the sermon are super helpful to follow how I should be feeling throughout the message. Great work!!
- Stage Presence: You use the stage well, apply good movements to represent imagery, your tone variation is helpful to follow. One thing that may help increase the weight of your words is to increase the length of your pauses by 15-25%. You are guiding us into a great emotional point or logical conclusion, but then you rush past the finalizing moment. Those extra few seconds would cement it for us.
- Conclusion: You are tying together a lot of the threads that you started (shooter, fear, God's relationship, remember who you are to God, etc) but not the text. I am not seeing a clear connection back throughout the whole thing together. It get why you said all that you said, but I don't see why you said it from that text and thats an issue; Leslie thinks this but does God? Overall, your delivery was great. You're engaging, funny, relatable, conversational in examples, authoritative in tone of teaching. The stage use was strong. I think a bit fast in your speaking, but you can listen back and see if thats something you'd like to work on. The examples you had were well-placed and had good use, but might have been a bit long for their purpose in the sermon. Also, something that I've found useful is to have a one—or two-sentence summary of your need and subject memorized. Then, if you forget where you are, you have some repetition you can throw out there to

give your brain a second to search for where you want to go. Sometimes, I will actually start talking through the points of my outline out loud. It serves as a review but also helps kickstart my memory. Great job, Leslie!

- Overall great job! I really appreciated your passion and the way in which you presented the text, and you did a great job connecting the text to your examples and images. I probably would have liked to see a little more work in the text itself, but you clearly stayed within the truth of the scripture passage that you preached, I saw the clear orientation to the text in your preaching!
- **Professor Feedback:** The movement is great when it helps create meaning. Meaningless movement can create a distraction. So, the side-to-side movement can be helpful when it signals a transition to a new thought or the end of an illustration. But when the movement is in the middle of an illustration for no tactical reason, then it can be distracting. (There is always more to think about!)