

Sitting at His Feet

Bible Study Workshops

Anne Graham Lotz



Dear Fellow Learner:

Recently, I came across a list someone had compiled of the things they had learned over a lifetime. The following are just a few of the items randomly selected from the list:

- Age 6 I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
Age 9 I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back.
Age 12 I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up.
Age 25 I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there.
Age 30 I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one believes it.
Age 40 I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone.
Age 50 I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
Age 60 I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.
Age 70 I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.
Age 80 I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.
Age 90 I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

The most knowledgeable people in the world are the greatest learners. God counseled the one who would be leader of His people "to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law. . . 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." (Deut. 17:18-19) Jesus instructed those who would be His disciples to, "Take My yoke upon you and *learn* from Me." (Matt. 11:29)

These handouts are designed as a listening guide to the CD or Tape Album, "Sitting at His Feet" (John 14:23). We at AnGeL Ministries pray that God will use these recorded presentations with the handouts to help you as you learn to read God's Word in order to hear God speak to you through it, as you learn to dig deeper than just a surface reading in order to discover hidden treasures in the text, and then as you learn to share with others in an accurate, life changing way.

My prayer is that you will not "let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; but meditate on it day and night," (Joshua 1:8) that you may receive the promised blessing of success in possessing all that God has for you.

For His Glory,

WORKSHOP ONE

HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

STEP 1

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY? (BE LITERAL)

- Read the passage thoroughly.
- Who is speaking? What is happening? Where is it taking place? What is the subject or thrust?
- List the outstanding facts.
- Do not paraphrase – use the words in the passage itself.

STEP 2

SO WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN? (BE SPIRITUAL)

- Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A warning to heed? An example to follow?
- What are the people doing that I should do? . . .or that I should not do? What are the people *not* doing I should or should not do?
- Write out one spiritual lesson or principle from each verse in the passage.

STEP 3

THEN WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME? (BE PERSONAL)

- Re-read the lessons from step 2.
- Put each lesson in the form of a question you would ask yourself or your child/spouse/parent/neighbor/co-worker/friend/church member.

WORKSHOP ONE

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

EXAMPLE . . . John 16:5-15

STEP 1 *WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY? (BE LITERAL)*

- v. 5 I am going, yet none asks where.
- v. 6 You are filled with grief.
- v. 7 It's good I am going. I will send the Counselor.
- v. 8 He will convict of guilt.
- v. 9 in regard to sin
- v. 10 in regard to righteousness
- v. 11 in regard to judgment
- v. 12 I have more to say than you can bear.
- v. 13 The Spirit will guide you into truth and speak what He hears.
- v. 14 He will bring glory to me.
- v. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. The Spirit will make it known to you.

STEP 2 *SO WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN? (BE SPIRITUAL)*

- v. 5 Jesus knows and has answers to my unspoken questions.
- v. 6 Jesus feels my pain.
- v. 7 Jesus knows how to comfort the lonely.
- v. 8 It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to induce guilt, not mine.
- v. 9 Unbelief and doubt are sins.
- v. 10 The Holy Spirit causes others to see that Jesus is the risen, reigning Lord.
- v.8-11 It is my responsibility to share the truth of the Gospel, but the response of people to it is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit.
- v. 12 Sometimes Jesus withholds His plans or understanding from me for my own good.
- v. 13 The Holy Spirit is the best Bible teacher.
- v. 14 The Holy Spirit has no other agenda but Jesus.
- v. 15 The Holy Spirit helps us understand the things of God.

STEP 3 *THEN WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME? (BE PERSONAL)*

- v. 5 What questions or prayers have I been afraid to take to Jesus?
- v. 6 Did I think Jesus was indifferent to my grief or loneliness?
- v. 7 Do I have the comfort Jesus gives?
- v. 8 Who am I trying to make feel guilty?
- v. 9 Whose sin am I pointing out while harboring unbelief and doubt in my own heart?
- v. 10 How easy is it for someone to acknowledge that Jesus is alive by watching me?
- v.8-11 How earnestly do I pray for others before I tell them about Jesus?
- v. 12 How large is my capacity to receive what Jesus has to say?
- v. 13 How teachable am I? How closely do I follow the Holy Spirit's guidance into truth?
- v. 14 What is my agenda?
- v. 15 Before reading or studying my Bible, do I pray first for the Holy Spirit to help me understand it?

WORKSHOP TWO

HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

STEP 1 **WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY? (KNOW THE FACTS)**

List the Facts

- Read the passage.
- Read the passage again, this time listing facts with verses: events, people, places, doctrine, theme, subject.
- Each item may involve one or more verses.
- Use the words of the passage – do not paraphrase.
- Your total list should have not less than five or more than twenty items.
- If possible each item should be not longer than one line and can be either a phrase, complete sentence, or just a word or two.

Divide the Facts

- Close your Bible – what do you remember? Make a mental note of the main facts.
- Re-read the list above – bracket the main facts, keeping the verses in sequence.
- Continue bracketing the verses together which share the same event, place, conversation, people, thought, subject, etc.
- Bracket the brackets until you have not more than four, or not fewer than two.
- Label each bracket with a Roman numeral, an explanatory sentence that summarizes the facts in the bracket, and verses that are included in the bracket.
- If possible, keep the subject the same in each label.
- Your brackets are now divisions.

Summarize the Facts

- Combine labels of your brackets into one long sentence.
- Make the sentence specific, including key words and/or obvious facts that identify the passage from any other.
- The sentence should be complete with subject and verb.
- The sentence should be not more than ten words.

STEP 2 **SO WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN? (FIND THE HEART)**

- Find one lesson for each division.
- Re-read the lessons for each division, seeking a common thread.
- Look for a specific command which may be the thrust of the passage.
- Write out the one, overall lesson as an aim, using an action verb.
- Begin the sentence with the words "to cause the audience to . . .", then insert your action verb and the rest of the lesson.

STEP 3 **THEN WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME? (LISTEN TO HIS VOICE)**

- Keeping in mind your overall aim from Step 2, find the lessons from each division which emphasize this, and put them in the form of a question to ask yourself or another.
- Questions should vary from the type requiring a yes or no answer to the type that requires more thought – "when", "how", "what", etc.
- You should have at least one question for each division that builds up and reinforces your overall aim.

WORKSHOP TWO
HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD
EXAMPLE . . . John 16:5-15

STEP 1 WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY? (KNOW THE FACTS)

List the Facts

- v. 5 I am going, yet none asks where.
- v. 6 You are filled with grief.
- v. 7 It's good I am going. I will send the Counselor.
- v. 8 He will convict of guilt.
- v. 9 in regard to sin
- v. 10 in regard to righteousness
- v. 11 in regard to judgment
- v. 12 I have more to say than you can bear.
- v. 13 The Spirit will guide you into truth and speak what He hears.
- v. 14 He will bring glory to me.
- v. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. The Spirit will make it known to you.

Divide the Facts

- I. The Counselor comes to us from Jesus. v. 5-7
- II. The Counselor convicts us of sin. v. 8-11
- III. The Counselor guides us into truth. v. 12-15

Summarize the Facts

Counselor comes from Jesus, convicts of guilt, guides into truth.

STEP 2 SO WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN? (FIND THE HEART)

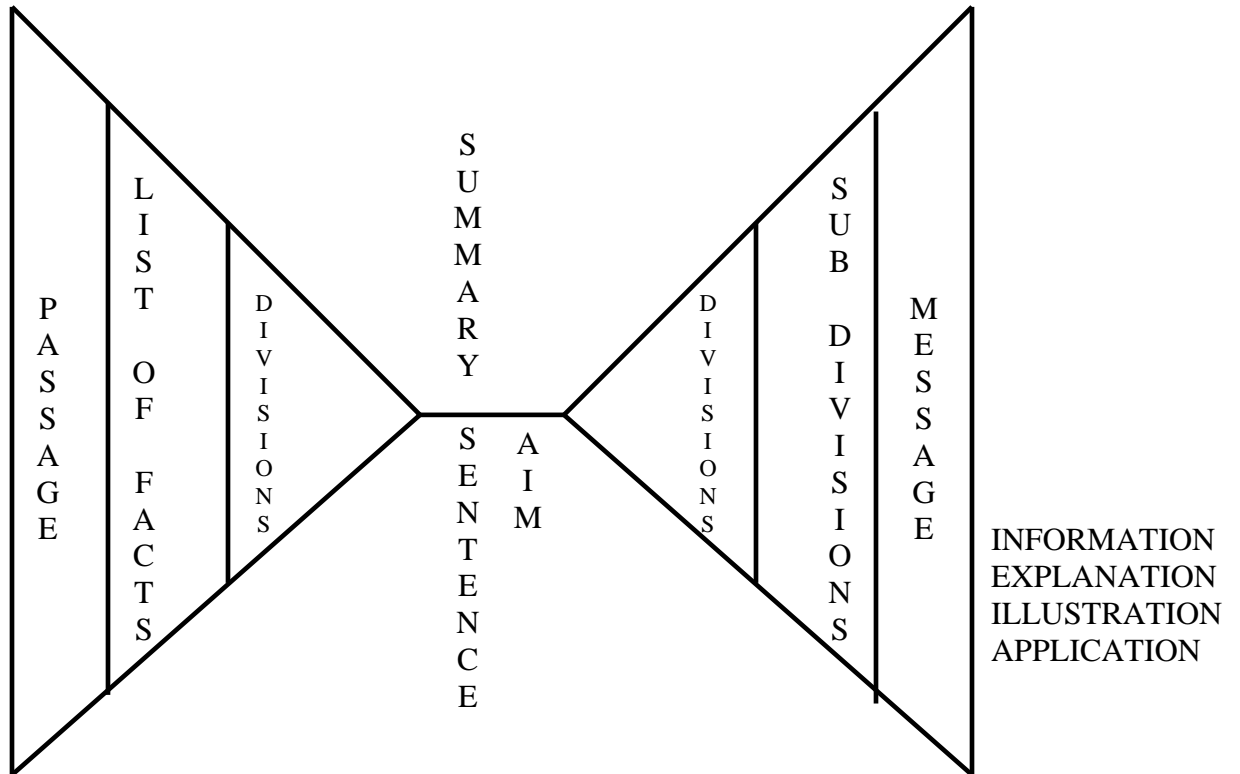
The aim: To cause the audience to receive and rely upon the Counselor.

STEP 3 THEN WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME? (LISTEN TO HIS VOICE)

- I. The Counselor comes to us from Jesus v. 5-7
Do I have the comfort that Jesus gives?
- II. The Counselor convicts us of guilt. v. 8-11
Who am I trying to make feel guilty?
- III. The Counselor guides us into truth v. 12-15
How closely do I follow the Holy Spirit's guidance?

WORKSHOP THREE

DIAGRAM: HOW TO TEACH GOD'S WORD



WORKSHOP THREE

HOW TO TEACH GOD'S WORD

I. COMPLETE WORKSHOP 2

II. LABEL PAGES IN A NOTEBOOK OF BLANK PAPER

- A. Label the top of the first page "introduction".
- B. Label the top of the second page with Roman numeral "I" and the title of your first division.
- C. Label the top of the third page with Roman numeral "II" and the title of your second division.
- D. Repeat this for pages four and five if you have three and four divisions - you should have at least one blank page or more for each division.
- E. The last page should be labeled "conclusion".

III. DEVELOP SUB-POINTS

- A. Begin with page 2, labeled with Roman numeral "I", etc.
- B. Bracket the passage of Scripture in this division as you would in step 2 of workshop 2. Each of these brackets becomes your sub-division.
- C. Label each sub-division with a capital letter, beginning with "A".
- D. Space sub-points evenly down the page, leaving room for notes.
- E. Repeat this step for each main division.

IV. FILL IN THE INFORMATION, EXPLANATION, ETC.

- A. Read one or two good commentaries.
 - Use the information to help with the explanation of each division.
 - Write the notes on your page under the appropriate sub-division.
- B. Add applications from workshop 2, step 3.
- C. Tuck in a few personal illustrations when needed for clarity (remember illustrations and applications emphasize, so use only to reinforce your overall aim).

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Take out the last page of your notebook and summarize your outline.
- B. End the entire message with the aim (workshop 2, step 2) in the form of a question.

VI. INTRODUCTION

- A. Take out page one.
- B. Introduce the message with either a current event, illustration, or application.
- C. The introduction should be relatively brief, and introduce the entire message, not just the first division.
- D. The introduction should get the audience's attention and cause them to want to hear the rest of the message.

WORKSHOP THREE
HOW TO TEACH GOD'S WORD

EXAMPLE . . . John 16:5-15

- The left side of the bowtie diagram is workshop two. The division labels are factual.
- The right side of the bowtie diagram is workshop three. While the labels for the divisions on the left side are factual, the division and the sub-division labels on the right side are more spiritual, explaining a principle or lesson while keeping the verse breakdown the same.

THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BOWTIE: Divisions

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| I. | The Counselor comes to us from Jesus. | v. 5-7 |
| II. | The Counselor convicts us of sin. | v. 8-11 |
| III. | The Counselor guides us into truth. | v. 12-15 |

THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BOWTIE: Divisions and Sub-Divisions

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| I. | HIS HOLY SPIRIT GIVES COMFORT | 16:5-7 |
| | A. The Comfort of His Person | v. 5-6 |
| | B. The Comfort of His Presence | v. 7 |
| II. | HIS HOLY SPIRIT GIVES CONFIDENCE | 16:8-11 |
| | A. He Convinces of Sin | v. 8-9 |
| | B. He Convinces of Righteousness | v. 10 |
| | C. He Convinces of Judgment | v. 11 |
| III. | HIS HOLY SPIRIT GIVES CLARITY | 16:12-15 |
| | A. He Clarifies the Written Word | v. 12-13 |
| | B. He Clarifies the Living Word | v. 14-15 |