

GETTING INTO THE WORD – EAT THE WORD

TOOL: EAT THE WORD

(Recommendation: Do this early with people to get them into the Word and practice drawing out revelation)

Named after verses like Jer 15:16, Ez 3, Matt 4:4, and Psalm 119:103, this tool uses different “filters” to help draw out observations and put things in the right context. It may feel overwhelming starting out, but the goal isn’t to merely tick the box of all the filters or get everything ‘right’ from an English/grammar perspective, but rather use the filters to make observations on the Word that lead to revelation. Once learned, it becomes less of a task and observations are made more naturally.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

The Power of Observation: When talking with people about Scripture, it is common to hear phrases such as, “What this means to me” or “Well, I think it means...” These phrases are dangerous because the reader interprets the Scripture, instead of hearing what the author (the Lord) intended it to say to the reader. Scripture must always be interpreted through the author’s intent. Scripture cannot say what Scripture never said. So, the following filters help us discern what the Lord actually said versus assuming what He meant.

The 9 Filters:

1) Identify Repetition of Words - This tells us the theme of the text

- How many times is the word repeated?
- Does it have the same meaning when it is repeated?
- *Example: John 1:1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”*

2) Identify Names & Pronouns – The names & personal pronouns set context for who the text is about

- Look for words like I, you, he, she, we, they, me, him, her, us, etc.
- Identify the players in the text to see who the text talking about
- This also helps the reader identify if the text is for them. Is it written to or about the believer?
- *Example: Galatians 1:6 “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel”*
 - *We have to look into the context to understand that this is Paul speaking to the church of Galatia.*

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3) **Identify Verbs** – These words show us the action or state of being described in the text

- Who is the subject or what is the object of the verb? And what does that tell you?
- Is it past, present, or future? And why does this matter?
- Is the verb imperative, meaning it's a command?
- *Example: Ephesians 1:3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

4) **Identify Any Contrast** – This is where we see how two things are strikingly different

- Usually denoted by the word "but"
- What is being contrasted? And what does that tell you?
- Make observations about their differences.
- *Example: Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath."*

5) **Identify Any Comparisons** – This is where we see how two things or ideas are similar in nature

- Usually denoted by the words "like" or "as"
- What items are being compared? And what does that tell you?
- What similarities are being drawn?
- *Example: John 15:6 "If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."*

6) **Identify Any Cause & Effect Relationships** – These will show us how when a certain thing took/takes place, what the result was/will be.

- Sometimes denoted by "if/then" statements
- What is the first step (cause) and the result (effect)?
- Is it positive or negative? What does that tell you?
- *Example: Lev 26:3-4 "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit."*

7) **Identify Any Lists** – This is where we see several connected items within a text

- What items are in the list? And what connects them all together?
- Why are the items important? Does it reveal anything about us or God's Character?
- *Example: Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

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8) Identify Any Conjunctions – These words will tie ideas and sentences together to help us frame the correct context of the text

- Look for words like “and,” “but,” and “therefore”
- Investigate why those words are there. What thoughts or ideas are being connected, and why?
- *Example: Romans 8:12 “Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.”*

9) Look Into Specific Root-Word Meanings – This filter allows us to look at the way the word was used in its original language and context. You can use www.biblehub.com or the BibleHub app to grasp a deeper meaning and help us fill in any gaps that may have been lost in translation.

- Open the app (or website) and at the top, enter into the search bar or select from the drop-down menu the verse you are working on.
- Select “interlinear” (may say Interlin or INT) – this will show the text in its original language.
- To find a specific word meaning, you will click on the number above the word.
- Read the definition using Strong’s Concordance, any HELPS Word-studies notes and the text reference in Thayer’s Greek Lexicon. By seeing the word-cloud that describes this word and reading the notes, it helps us better understand the author’s intent behind using the word.
- *Example John 21:6 “Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”*
 - *Through BibleHub, we see that the words “love” used here are actually two different words in the original language (agape vs. phileo). You would need to drill into the original word by clicking on the number above each to gain more insight into the type of love being talked about in the text.*

◀ John 21:16 ▶

John 21 - Click for Chapter

3004 [e]	846 [e]	3825 [e]	1208 [e]	4613 [e]	2491 [e]	25 [e]	1473 [e]	3004 [e]	846 [e]	
Legei	autō	palin	deuteron	Simōn	Iōannou	agapas	me	Legei	autō	
16	Λέγει	αὐτῷ	πάλιν	δεύτερον ,	Σίμων	Ἰωάννου ,	ἀγαπᾷς	με ?	Λέγει	αὐτῷ
He says	to him	again	a second time	Simon	[son] of John	love you	Me	He says	to Him	
V-PIA-3S	PPro-DM3S	Adv	Adv	N-VMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-2S	PPro-A1S	V-PIA-3S	PPro-DM3S	
3483 [e]	2962 [e]	4771 [e]	1492 [e]	3754 [e]	5368 [e]	4771 [e]	3004 [e]	846 [e]	4165 [e]	3588 [e]
Nai	Kyrie	sy	oidas	hoti	philō	se	Legei	autō	Poimaine	ta
Ναί ,	Κύριε ;	σὺ	οἶδας	ὅτι	φιλῶ	σε .	Λέγει	αὐτῷ ,	Ποίμινε	τὰ
Yes	Lord	You	know	that	I dearly love	You	He says	to him	Shepherd	the
Prtcl	N-VMS	PPro-N2S	V-RIA-2S	Conj	V-PIA-1S	PPro-A2S	V-PIA-3S	PPro-DM3S	V-PMA-2S	Art-ANP
4263 [e]	1473 [e]									
probata	mou									
πρόβατά	μου .									
sheep	of Me									

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Additional support: Here is a Jackie Hill Perry YouTube video explaining 4 principles she uses when studying the Bible: [linked here](#). You will find many similarities.

Add-On Tip: It can be powerful to have people do this and then write a letter to themselves – *i.e.* “Dear Kellie, [write out what you think Jesus is saying and wants you to know after making observations and drawing revelation from the text]... Love, Jesus” – sometimes this step is helpful for people to see and understand that they are hearing the voice of the Lord.

When teaching this, it’s also cool for the group to do this on the same scripture because in the end, everyone’s letter is different and unique to them but should still be in alignment with the Word... it’s proof that the Word is alive and active, always accurate, but also personal!