

Script_Module11 – Applications

As our first slide shows, the word application is making truth practical, relevant and usable in our everyday lives. Jesus often used everyday life examples to bring truth home to the disciples because He knew that these illustrations would be remembered later when He would no longer be with them. God now uses those in our lives so that we too can learn the lessons we need to learn and to see how we might take those principles and apply them to our lives.

Paul wrote to Timothy to remind him of this truth: All—that is every single word that we read -----Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.[2 Tim 3:16]. Did you notice that scripture is not just rote words written to be read once and passed on but it is there for us to teach us, bring to our minds truths that are needful for our lives, to rebuke us, or reprove us in areas that we are shamefully lacking or there is a sin that is lurking in our minds. It is also useful to correct us where we are in error. It trains us so that we can be those godly people of holiness as Peter reminded his readers when he spoke of Jesus: “be ye holy as I am holy”. Thus this book that lay before us is our tool in all four of those areas and our godly mentors are waiting to teach us the truths hidden within.

The art of application seems easy but then comes the task of actually formulating the questions. This takes earnest effort because we must analyze the areas that will help us write our application. Therefore analyze using these areas using the three “p’s”: personal, possible, provable (meaning “when, how, where). Our applications then must be measurable so we can see if we have overcome those three areas of concern. Not always do all three fit the lesson under discussion but the Holy Spirit will guide if we allow Him to speak to our hearts. He will not only touch your heart or prick it where you need change but He will guide you into writing questions that will elicit responses that will cause you to grow and mature into the image of Christ. Some lessons just overflow with applications and others it will seem like you are pulling your hair out to come up with them. This is a time for prayer if ever there was a time. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind the areas He wants to change, “upgrade”, bring about repentance, and alter your thinking as we talked about in our last lesson. Jehovah wants us to do an about face in regard to our culture. We are to be present day Elijah’s unwilling to compromise and unwilling to bend to the newest fad. We are to be the Hosea’s of our day and God will direct us to complete it.

You especially want to target the spiritual principles that you have been seeing crop up as you study and focus in on those. Those are the keys to unlocking the changed life. When we realize those we can begin to ask other questions of ourselves. We want our questions to be relevant and applicable to our individual life situation. Also recall the command of James to be doers and not just hearers of the Word as well as Paul’s word to Timothy in 2 Tim 3:16 and remind yourself that this is a profitable exercise:

- Teaching. What did you learn?
- Reproof. Where do you fall short? Why do you fall short?
- Correction. What are you doing to do about it?

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•Training in righteousness. How can you make this/these principle(s) flow conspicuously and continually moment by moment in your life?

Here are some starter questions to whet your appetite:

- What don't you understand? Do you need more study or is this just a misunderstanding that can be corrected with application of scripture?
- What is being taught that the Holy Spirit wants to use to transform you?
- Are there any commands or promises you can cling to?
- Is there an example to follow or flee?
- What do you learn about God?
- Ask: the "Big 6 Q's" (what, when; where; why; how, who).
- Was there a problem in this passage that had a practical solution and can you borrow that same solution for your life?
- Do I recall this teaching someplace else?

Now let's take those and build application questions from any passage of scripture.

Let's begin with a scriptural principle we gleaned from our study:

For example, the first question is what you don't understand. An application question for this might be:

I do not understand why I need to submit nor can I recall any benefit from it. Therefore, this week I will keep a log of my responses when asked to submit (at work, at home, with a friend's request). At the end of the week I will look back and read my journal entries. What happened when I did submit at home, at work, to a friend's request? How many were positive interactions and how many were negative. More positives than negatives or the reverse?

As you can see the application question is very long. Since our worksheet does not have a lot of room for such a lengthy application, let's see if we can shorten it to fit the space and still achieve the point. How about if mentally you walked through your thinking like this:

1. Personal: I have a problem in that I don't see the need to submit.
2. Possible: Is it possible that I do not see myself through God's lens?
3. Provable: People tell me I am standoffish or I see myself wrapped in situations that are less than pleasant.

Our Application then is: I will take time to observe and keep a record of my responses when asked to submit and be ready to share what God taught me. Or you could write it as a question: Will you take time this week to observe and keep a record of your responses to submit and share what you learned with someone?

Now we have personalized the application and also given yourself/reader a choice to be held accountable for an action which is measurable.

- Now let's look at our second question: What is being taught that the Holy Spirit wants to use to transform you? In the passage of Matt 14 the disciples were afraid when

they saw Jesus coming to them on the water. Perhaps you can relate when you too were afraid of something in the unknown or in the dark. Yet we know that Paul told Timothy that God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. What things cause you to be fearful? Are you as a woman afraid of being alone? Are you a man afraid of being left unemployed? Are you as a child afraid of a bully or someone bigger than you or are you afraid of dogs? There are so many things that the enemy puts before our eyes that cause us to be fearful. What is yours?

Let's see if we can write an application question that targets our fear. First we need to walk through our thinking on this target:

1. Personal: I am afraid of...
2. Possible: I am afraid because of the uncertainty of....:" fill in the blank:"
3. Provable: I am afraid of being at home alone

You now have analyzed the facts and now you need to write an application that will help overcome this fear based upon the fact that Paul said we do not have a spirit of fear. Application Statement: I will recall this story of Jesus when I am afraid and remind myself that Jesus came to the disciples and He will come to me just when I need it. Application/Evaluation Questions: Think back to the last time you were afraid. What did you do and what did you not do? What will you choose to do differently this time? Will you call upon Jesus to come in your time of "fear" and calm "your sea".

Now open the powerpoint slide and let's walk through it for our review.

Slide 1: This tells us the path we will use to write our applications. We now have the facts of the passage based upon our "5W's and H' questions. We also have the principles that we gleaned as the biblical truths that are there for us to glean. We also saw that there were some aims or goals that needed to be met. Now we want to take all those three parts and see how we are going to take this to the practical level if the truth of 2 Tim is to be used for His glory. See slide 2 for this in shorthand.

Slide 2: Review of our path to this point. We have discovered the facts, we have drawn the principles and developed our aims. Now it is time to see what the Holy Spirit is teaching us and wanting us to apply practically, personally, possibly. We also want some way to measure if we have accomplished the application as well. We call that provable.

Slide 3: From the chapter you read you noted that using Bloom's helps to develop critical thinking skills and question starters which we can that there are several words we can use to develop our application questions. Once again you may want to go back and review those key words in order to develop critical thinking questions for yourself and any audience that may use your work. On this slide are some helpful hints to remember as you determine your application questions.

Slide 4: Memory Verse. Hide this verse in your heart and remember that it is God alone who is your teacher and why He chooses to be your teacher. He is in the process of examining and reproofing, correcting and instructing you in righteousness. It is for His Names sake that He chooses to do this for you.

Here are 6 key points to remember and utilize as you develop your application questions.

APPLY: Want to know how to apply the principle of prayer in your life?

- I will choose to pray when I am in a storm situation.
- I will choose to pray as it calms me and allows the Holy Spirit to direct me.

BUILD: a plan of action.

- When I am in a storm I will recall this story to calm me.

CHOOSE what you plan to do when you face a storm:

- I will choose to be calm, call unto Jesus in prayer.

CONSTRUCT; What is your plan?

- I will call a friend to pray with me.
- I will spend time in my closet praying.

DEVELOP: What will you consider as parts of your “safety net plan?”

- I will write out this story and consider what it teaches me to do.
- I will specifically recall and write about what I did last time. Was I successful or not? If no why not, Can I use that experience to direct me to a better design when facing a storm?

IDENTIFY: What needs do I have that I need to identify?

- What or who frighten me?
- Where should I hide myself?

Remember that it is God who searches the heart which is desperately wicked and He alone knows what is best for you. He will not only examine your heart but also direct your steps. Prov 16:9 A person plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps. Thus we can be assured that God will direct our lives and our steps to bring about the application He knows we need and what He desires.

Slide 6: Just as our Aims need to have three components so our applications must follow suit. Make sure they are personal, practical and provable. We won't spend a lot of time here as we already spent a fair amount of time on those points in our Aims chapter.

Slide 7: There is a powerful hint found in 2Tim 3:16 that you should always refer to as you write out your application. Scripture is there for these 4 reasons and the reason they are there is to equip us for His service?

Slide 8: On this slide you will see a little acronym so you can remember this verse 2 Tim 3:16: T-R-a-C-T. If you follow those paths you will accomplish the correct applications.

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Slide 9 shows you an example of this acronym. Remember that there is no right or wrong... you may see something totally different and that is ok. That is the challenge of the application questions and why they are personal.

Slide 10. Application Homework: Write one application for each division and one general one if you are to teach this to a class. Return to your worksheet and see what applications you come up with for Matthew 14.