

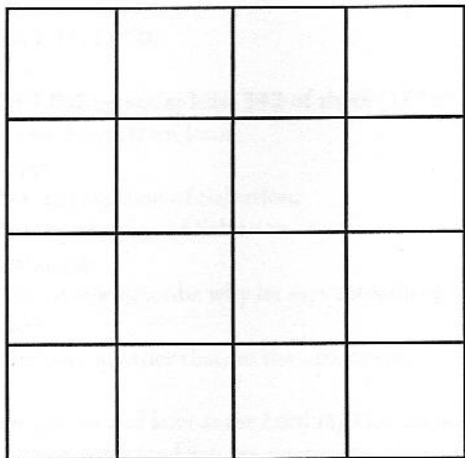
■ Listen **purposefully**.

- ▶ We want our lives transformed by the heart of God through His Word!

Learn to Look...

■ The art of Bible reading is **seeing**.

■ How many squares do you see below? (There are 30 squares below.)



■ Look for what the Word **emphasizes**.

▶ Verbs

- How does the author depict the action of the text?
- Is the verb past, **present**, or future?

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,"
(Ephesians 1:11, NIV)

- Is the verb **imperative**?

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," (Matthew 28:19, NIV)

- Is the verb active or **passive**?

"The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

(Genesis 12:1-3, NIV)

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."
(Ephesians 5:18, NIV)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”
(Colossians 3:1, NIV)

▶ Space

- Is the author devoting concentrated attention to a certain theme, character, event, etc.?
- Genesis 1-11, 12-50.
- Matthew
 - Of 1,062 verses, at least 342 of them (1/3 of the book) give us teachings from Jesus.
- Ephesians
 - 1-3: Explanation of Salvation.
 - 4-6: Application of Salvation.

▶ Purpose Statement

- Does the author describe why he says something or why something happens?
- Look for that, in order that, so that, to, or for.

“See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it.

Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”

(Deuteronomy 4:5-6, NIV)

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

(Psalm 119:11, NIV)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

(John 15:16, NIV)

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

(John 20:30-31, NIV)

Genesis 3

- Introduction of Sin (3:1-7).
 - ▶ Confrontation of Man (3:8-12).
 - Confrontation of Woman (3:13).
 - Confrontation and Promise to Serpent (3:14-15).
 - Promise to Woman (3:16).
 - ▶ Promise to Man (3:17-19).
- Consequence of Sin (3:20-24).

Genesis 11

- The whole world (1)
 - ▶ Had one language (1)
 - Shinar, and settled there (2)
 - Come, let's make bricks (3)
 - Come, let us build (4)
 - A city with a tower (4)
 - ★ But the Lord came down (5)
 - To see the city and the tower (5)
 - That the men were building (5)
 - Come, let us go down and confuse their language (7)
 - Babel – because there (9)
 - ▶ The Lord confused the language (9)
 - The whole earth (9)

1 and 2 Kings

- Two Chapters: Introduction and Rise (1 Kings 1-2).
 - ▶ Nine Chapters: Single Kingdom – Solomon (1 Kings 3-11).
 - Twenty-Nine Chapters: The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17)
 - ▶ Six Chapters: Single Kingdom – Josiah (2 Kings 18-23).
- Two Chapters: Conclusion and Fall (2 Kings 24-25).
- Look for what the Word repeats.
 - ▶ Does the author intentionally repeat anything in the text?
 - ▶ Terms, phrases, and clauses
 - Psalm 136 – His love endures forever!
 - Matthew 5:34-6:34 – God is our Father!

▶ Prepositions

- Look for by, with, from, in, on, upon, through, or to...

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
(Galatians 2:20, NIV)

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."
(Romans 5:1-2, NIV)

▶ General and Specific

- Look for times when an author introduces a general idea and then provides an explanation through specific supporting ideas (or vice versa).
- From general to specific: Galatians 5:16-23.

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."
(Galatians 5:16-23, NIV)

- From specific to general: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

▶ Question and Answer

- Look for questions that are answered and also rhetorical questions in which the answer is implied.

*"Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?
Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."*
(Job 38:2-3, NIV)

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty.

*"It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name.
But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'"*
(Malachi 1:6, NIV)

▶ Conditions

- Look for specific clauses that demonstrate certain conditions which bring about a desired response.
- Look for if (the condition) and then (the consequence).

“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.”

(Deuteronomy 28:1, NIV)

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!”*

(2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV)

*“If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,
we lie and do not live by the truth.”*

(1 John 1:6, NIV)

▶ Lists

- Look for any instances of two or more itemized things and observe how and why they are ordered in a certain way.

“For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.”

(1 John 2:16, NIV)

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”

(Colossians 3:5-8, NIV)

■ Look for what the Word compares.

- ▶ Does the author compare certain items, ideas, or individuals to others?
- ▶ Simile
 - Look for expressed comparisons of two things that are different.
 - Look for as and like.

*“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.”
(Psalm 42:1, NIV)*

*“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,”
(John 3:14, NIV)*

*“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk,
so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,”
(1 Peter 2:2, NIV)*

- ▶ Metaphor
 - Look for implied comparisons between two things that are different.
 - Comparison without using as or like.

“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

*Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”
(James 3:3-6, NIV)*

- ▶ Allegory
 - Look for instances where the author uses a certain image or comparison to communicate a deeper meaning in the text.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
(Luke 11:11-13, NIV)

■ Look for how the Word **communicates**.

- ▶ Does the author use certain words, images, phrases, or other literary tools to communicate certain emotions, moods, or tones in the text?
- ▶ Emotions
 - Look for words that convey particular **feelings** or emotions.

"I myself said, 'How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.' I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me. But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel, declares the Lord."
(Jeremiah 3:19-20, NIV)

"I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?"
(Galatians 4:12-16, NIV)

▶ Mood

- Look for evidence of the author's demeanor as he writes.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"
(Philippians 4:4, NIV)

▶ Tone

- After looking at individual emotional terms and instances of mood, continue on to discover the overall tone of the text and/or book.

"I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of his wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones. He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead."
(Lamentations 3:1-6, NIV)