

CHAPTER FOUR: Practical Understanding of Bloom’s Taxonomy

Knowing intellectually and implementing what you know are two different things. Many people gather facts but that is as far as they go. They lack the implementation of those facts into their lives. We can know it is raining by what we see and what we can feel. But if we remain outside in the rain we have not moved to the next rung of understanding that remaining outside causes one’s garments to become saturated with the moisture from above! We can “know intellectually” but the question remains: can we use what we know; that is godly wisdom that Solomon discussed in Proverbs and James referenced in chapter 3 of his letter to the dispersed.

Bible Study has several components:

- read and meditate,
- record for recall and understanding;
- discern spiritual principles that will benefit one’s walk with the Lord and to be used by the Holy Spirit

To begin with the practical understanding we need to walk through each component and unlock the meaning. By knowing what it is, the key words unlock the “mystery,” how the Bible presents it and lastly how you as the reader/student can use it. Using our helpful ladder diagrams, let’s look at the practical side as we learn the steps in the *Modified Inductive Bible Study*. To help us we will use a worksheet chart where we can record our findings as we dig and unearth God’s nuggets of understanding. Here is a sample chart that will be used as we study. We will walk through each column as we study. You can find a copy of it in the Appendix. It is free for downloading and copying.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE				
DETAILS SUMMARIZED: Key Wds/Phrases (Facts = Knowledge/Recall)	NOTES/QUESTIONS; CROSS REFERENCES (Comprehension/Discernment)	TEN WORD SENTENCE DIVISIONS/SECTIONS (Comprehension of passage Analysis)	AIM: Author’s original idea; Present day intent “know then know now” (Analysis/Synthesis)	APPLICATION QUES (Application—moving from what you know, what you should be doing to what you will actually do)
		PRINCIPLES:	What did author want his original audience to learn? What do you want yourself and/or present day students to learn?	

Figure 1-Worksheet

BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

Briefly each column is explained below before we work through each one separately; to help you a simple flow chart has been displayed below to show you a sample of how this works.

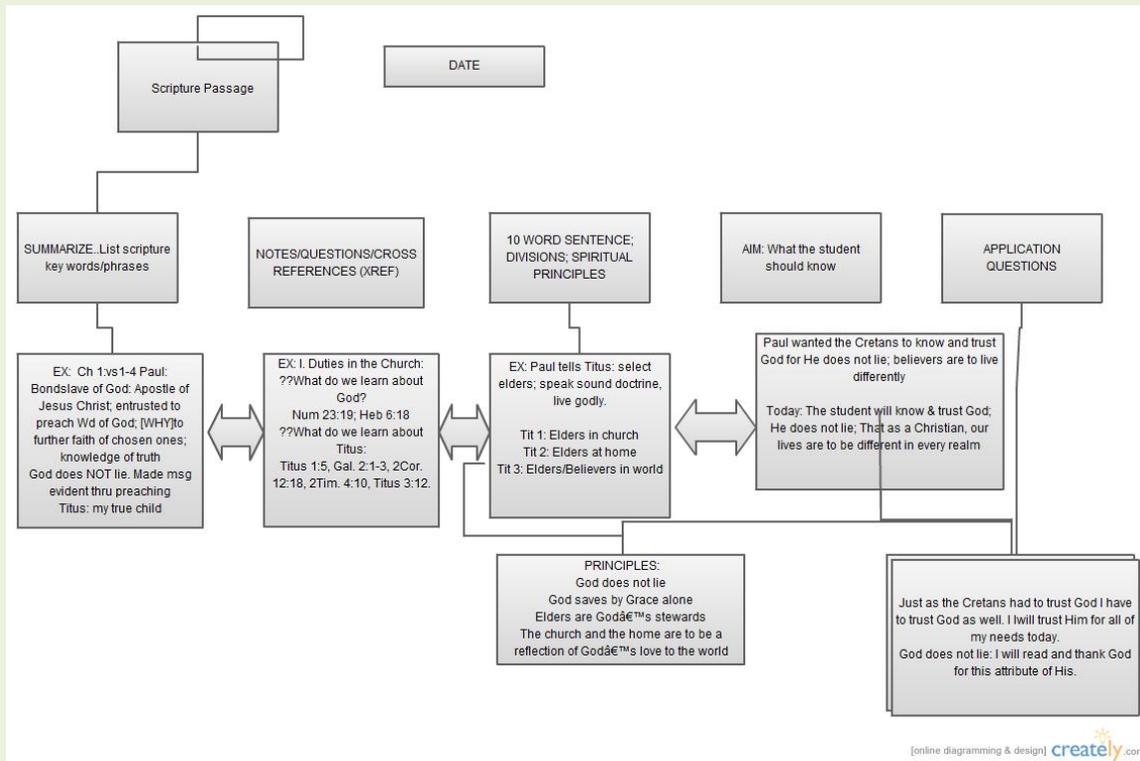


Figure 2-Flowchart of worksheet

Details Summarized:/Key Words/Phrases.= KNOWLEDGE/FACTS

To use once again our analogy of the reporter, in this column we will record key ideas and/or phrases that we find as we ask our “what, where, when, who, how” questions of the text we are studying. In addition we will learn how to do “word subtraction” as we eliminate conjunctions “and, but” and extra phrases (think of a long winding) road. These phrases help us picture the road but are unnecessary to our recall. Ex. “and, if, the.

Notes/Questions Cross References= COMPREHENSION/DISCERNMENT:

In this column we will record questions that the Holy Spirit brings to our mind as we study and/or notes of verses or ideas that we recall from past studies. In addition as we study we may want to note cross references such as other verses that complement this passage and cover the same ideas or principles. “xref” = cross references from here on. Often if we insert a “?” mark prior to our recording it will jog our memory that this is a question that needs answering and helps us to eliminate unnecessary words. Instead of taking up space to write: Where in the story is Peter? do this: ? Peter is where?

TEN Word Subject Sentence Divisions/Sections/Principles= COMPREHENSION/ANALYSIS.

In this column we want to write a 10 word sentence that will incorporate truths, people/places etc. that will jog our memory as to this passage's basic truth. Why 10 words? Ten words forces us to grab just the essentials. Also, in this column we want to record our divisions. Divisions are those groups of verses that complete a thought. We can use the divisions that our Bibles already have there but sometimes the Holy Spirit will give us ways to divide the passage that helps us better recall. Anytime you make your own divisions you will remember that passage more easily. Also in this column is where the principles are listed. Remember: a biblical or spiritual principle is a statement that never changes. God never changes and these do not either. They are the building blocks of truth. Jesus is the Son of God; Prophets were God's messengers in the OT times and so forth.

AIM=ANALYSIS/SYNTHESIS:

When the original authors wrote they had a specific audience in mind and the Holy Spirit inspired them to record God's truth for them and His message. Those messages are the same today but are reworded to fit our audience today. Further we need to take each aim and break them down into manageable parts. Sometimes the Holy Spirit wants us to work on the head that is what we intellectually understand from the passage. Other times He wants the reader to aim for the heart, the affections, how it impacts our emotionally sided part of us. The last is the "hands." Think of your hands as representing what we are to do with this passage.. In this way we are demonstrating to ourselves and others that we understand what the passage is really teaching. To help us; think of each aim you write as "head, heart, hands."

Application Questions=APPLICATION:

These are the heart questions that will pierce our thinking, motives and actions and spur us into godly living. As we study, the Holy Spirit is interacting with our spirit and showing us the practical things that we need to be challenged to step out and do. These are the questions He is asking us to respond to as we study. Sometimes they are the personal questions: Where do I need to ...; or What new step will I take this week as a result of this study? Application questions should be personal "I", practical "I can do.."; possible "I can do (___) this week", and measurable. You can set up a test for yourself to implement your application question.

Here is a good example of this. A sponge is good as it has a function, clean up a spill. But what good is a sponge if it says, I know what I am to do, I feel bad about spill but I choose not to wipe up that spill. Has the sponge "applied"! No it has become a worthless piece of equipment. So too with us. We must not only take in facts and know in our mind the truths but we must also act upon them.

Much of our application questions will depend upon our ability to make wise decisions. The best design for decision making that this author has found comes from the

model of Josh McDowell's¹ thinking which he calls the "4C's". Below this diagram is an expanded view of Mc Dowell's chart:

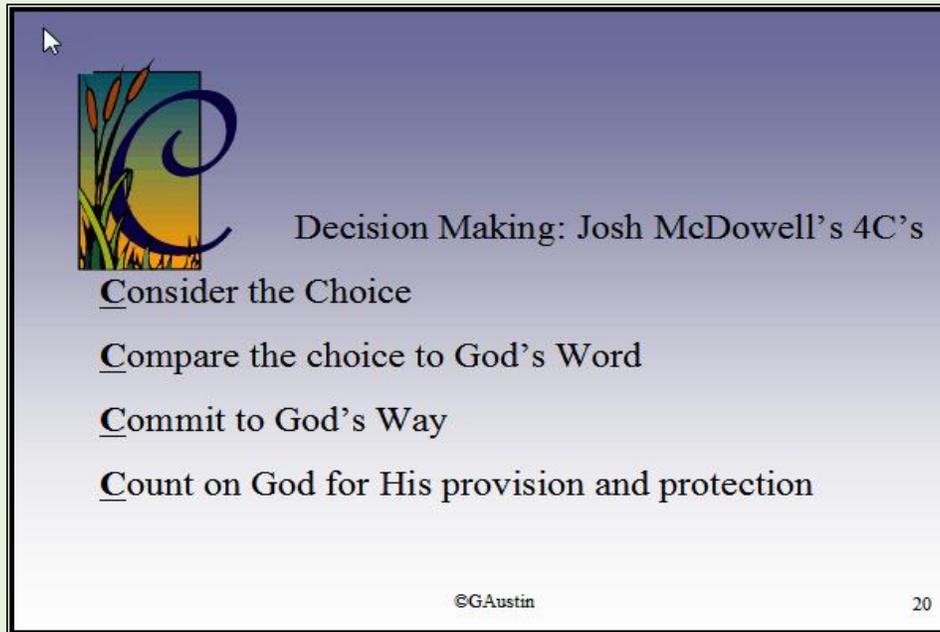


Figure 3-4 C's - Expanded

The 4C's Application and/or Decision Ideas Expanded:

Consider the Choice: your decisions are between what God says is right or wrong

Compare it to God: compare your choice to one of the "3 P's": precepts, principles, person

God's precepts (Why: Ps 19:8 The Lord's precepts are fair and make one joyful. The Lord's commands are pure and give insight for life.

God's principles (Why: Ps 19:9-11 The commands to fear the Lord are right and endure forever. The judgments given by the Lord are trustworthy and absolutely just. They are of greater value than gold, than even a great amount of pure gold; they bring greater delight than honey, than even the sweetest honey from a honeycomb. Yes, your servant finds moral guidance there; those who obey them receive a rich reward.)

God's person (Deut 28:58 fear this glorious and awesome name, the Lord your God)

Commit to God's way: consciously choose to do what God and His Word tells you to do

¹ McDowell, Josh, "The One Year Youth Devotions", Tyndale Publisher; ©2003.

BIBLE STUDY TECHNIQUES- LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE WORD

Count on God's provision and protection: that means you will actively choose to trust God because He has been faithful in the past and He will prove to be faithful to His promises to care for you in each and every situation.

QUESTIONS: Please take your time and record the answers to these questions prayerfully.

1. Today you have been faced with a decision to continue on in this course or not. What did you use as data to make your informed decision?
2. Today you also made decisions as to time you would spend in study and prayer. What factors did you use to determine your decision?
3. Today you made decisions on where you would go, what you would do, with whom you would interact. Journal your decisions and then evaluate your choices. Were they based upon God's Word or your own initiative?
4. Keep a running journal of your time and your choices for a day and then evaluate before God as to their biblically based principles. How did you do?