

How to Read The Book

Lesson 6—Paragraphs¹

Review of the Journey

Step 1: Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the _____?

Step 2: Measure the width of the river. What are the _____ between the biblical audience and us?

Step 3: Cross the principlizing bridge. What is the _____ in this text?

Step 4: Consult the biblical map. How does this theological principle _____ with the _____ of the _____?

Step 5: Grasp the text in our town. How should individual _____ today _____ the principle?

Introduction

Story: “The Student, the Fish, and Agassiz”² What similarities to studying God’s Word do you see?

What to Look for in Paragraphs

1. General and specific
 - a. Galatians 5:16, 19-21a, 22-23
 - b. 1 Corinthians 13:1-12, 13.
2. Questions and Answers
 - a. Romans 6:1, 2
 - b. Mark 2:1-3:6 has 5 questions and 5 answers (1st four are asked by Pharisees and last by Jesus). 2:7→2:10; 2:16→2:17b; 2:18→2:19; 2:24→2:25,28; 3:4→Jesus answers with His actions, but they fail to answer His question. Mark also does this 5-question pattern in 11:27-12:40.
3. Dialogue
 - a. Who are the participants?
 - b. Who is speaking to whom?
 - c. What is the setting?
 - d. Are other people around?
 - e. Are they listening?
 - f. Are they participating in the dialogue?
 - g. Is the dialogue an argument? A discussion? A lecture? Friendly chitchat?
 - h. What is the point of the dialogue?
 - i. John 3
 - j. John 4
 - k. John 13:6-10
 - l. Habakkuk. (Not as easy to spot, but this is a dialog between God and His people.)

¹This course is based primarily on content from *Grasping God’s Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible, 3rd Edition*, by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

²Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807-73), Harvard scientist. This classic story is taken from *American Poems* (Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co, 1880), 450-54.

4. Purpose/Result Statements
 - a. Ephesians 2:10
 - b. John 3:16
 - c. Romans 3:23
 - d. Romans 6:23
 - e. Psalm 119:11
5. Means (By which something is accomplished)
 - a. Psalm 119:9
6. Conditional Clauses
 - a. 1 John 1:6
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:17
7. Actions/Roles of People and Actions/Roles of God
 - a. Ephesians 5:1-2
8. Emotional Terms
 - a. Galatians 4:12-16
 - b. Jeremiah 3:19-20
9. Tone
 - a. Colossian 3:1-4
 - b. Galatians 3:1-4
 - c. Matthew 23:33-35

Let's Try It Out

Colossians 1:3-8—Record everything you see that we have talked about today.

At home this week, see how many observations you can make about Philippians 2:1-4. Now, try to apply all the details you learned from Lesson 5—Sentences and this Lesson 6—Paragraphs.