

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

TITLE: 40 DAYS IN THE WORD

SESSION THREE: PROBE IT!

MEMORY VERSE: DO NOT MERELY LISTEN TO THE WORD, AND SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS.

James 1:22 (NIV)

Probe It!

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

John 17:17 (KJV)

Bible study without application is dangerous because...

- **Knowledge produces** _____.

Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

1 Corinthians 8:1 (NIV)

“Puffs up” = inflated with pride that leads to arrogance...

- **Knowledge requires** _____.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)

I have considered many ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.

Psalm 119: 59-60

- **Knowledge increases** _____.

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

James 4:17 (NIV)

Applying the Bible is difficult because ...

- **It requires** _____.
- **Satan** _____.

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION THREE (cont.)

- We naturally _____.

Applied Bible study is an act of the will that leads to spiritual maturity. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the strength, determination, and will power to press through, apply the truth, and make the changes he wants in us.

THE APPLICATION BRIDGE

Ask: What did it _____? --- Interpretation

What is the _____? --- Implication

How does it _____? --- Application

The challenge in Bible application is to discover the eternal truths that never change, and then apply them in a world that is always changing.

1 In your letter you asked me about food offered to idols. All of us know something about this subject. But knowledge makes us proud of ourselves, while love makes us helpful to others. 2 In fact, people who think they know so much don't know anything at all. 3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. 4 Even though food is offered to idols, we know that none of the idols in this world are alive. After all, there is only one God... 7 Not everyone knows these things. In fact, many people have grown up with the belief that idols have life in them. So when they eat meat offered to idols, they are bothered by a weak conscience. 8 But food doesn't bring us any closer to God. We are no worse off if we don't eat, and we are no better off if we do. 9 Don't cause problems for someone with a weak conscience, just because you have the right to eat anything. 10 You know all this, and so it doesn't bother you to eat in the temple of an idol. But suppose a person with a weak conscience sees you and decides to eat food that has been offered to idols. 11 Then what you know has destroyed someone Christ died for. 12 When you sin by hurting a follower with a weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 So if I hurt one of the Lord's followers by what I eat, I will never eat meat as long as I live.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NIV)

- **What did it mean then?** Don't eat meat offered to idols if it offends your brother. Even though you know there's nothing wrong with it, it's not the loving thing to do.
- **What is the timeless truth?** Don't allow your freedom to offend your brother. Just because you know something is okay to do doesn't mean you should do it. Even lawful freedom must be used in love. You need to be sensitive to the people around you and to the testimony of your lifestyle.

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION THREE (cont.)

- **How does it apply now?** Is there anything I am doing out of selfishness, arrogance, or insensitivity that could be causing a brother or sister to stumble? Am I being puffed up by my own knowledge or am I building others up in love?
- **Write it down.** The process isn't finished until you have written down an application of the insights you've discovered through your meditation. Applications of God's Word is vitally necessary to our spiritual health and our growth in Christian maturity. If you want to keep your heart soft before God and not let it become hardened, you must diligently, honestly, humbly, and obediently apply his Word to your life.

THE "PROBE IT!" METHOD OF BIBLE MEDITATION

S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S.

S – Is there a _____ to confess?

P – Is there a _____ to claim?

A – Is there an _____ to change?

C – Is there a _____ to obey?

E – Is there an _____ to follow?

P – Is there a _____ to pray?

E – Is there an _____ to avoid?

T – Is there a _____ to believe?

S – Is there _____ to praise God for?

Notice that every phrase in S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. contains a verb. They are all action oriented.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

As a group practice the **Probe it!** method of Bible meditation by applying the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions to **Micah 6:8**. Write down your thoughts and applications. You might not be able to answer every question. Don't force it. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION THREE (cont.)

He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the **Lord** require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

S – Is there a sin to confess?

Here’s a little help to get you started: How is the church living up to this command in your community? How about your church in particular? What about your personal life? Have you been living in obedience to this verse or are you leaving it up to others?

P – Is there a promise to claim?

What are some of the implied promises and blessings of practicing this verse?

A – Is there an attitude to change?

Apathy, lethargy, thinking the world will take care of itself, leave it to government, etc.

C – Is there a command to obey?

E – Is there an example to follow?

40 DAYS IN THE WORD SESSION THREE (cont.)

P – Is there a prayer to pray?

E – Is there an error to avoid?

T – Is there a truth to believe?

S- Is there something to praise God for?
