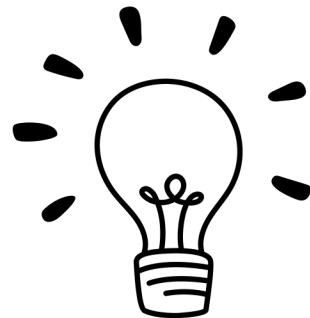


TOOL #2 - KEY WORDS

“Remember, a key word is a word that the author uses repeatedly in a significant way, or a word which can not be removed from the text without leaving it devoid of meaning.” How to Study your Bible, Kay Arthur pg. 46

Helpful Hints



REMEMBER, KEY WORDS/PHRASES...

- Are essential to the meaning of the text.
- Lead to identifying main points which can lead to the theme(s).
- Might be a noun, descriptive word (adjectives), or action word (verbs).
- May include synonyms, closely related words/phrases, and pronouns (think people).
- You will want to write down the key words or phrases.
 - Make a list of all you notice about each key word/phrase.
- Some people even mark their key words.

LET'S PRACTICE

READ these verses:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

What is the key word in this verse? COMFORT

How many times does the key word appear? 4 times

When a word or phrase is used this often in a verse you better take notice!

Now, grab your Bible and read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

How many times does the key word appear in this set of verses? 9 times

CONTEXT: These verses are part of a letter written by Paul to the church in Corinth. This background should help you as you answer the following three questions.

Who is being comforted? PAUL, those in any trouble, your comfort (church in Corinth)

Who comforts? GOD PAUL Abounds through Christ

Is comfort used in the same way each time? NO

Suffering is another key word in this passage. See how many times the word appears. 4 times

Remember, when looking for key words, we can also look for synonyms and related words.

Do you notice any synonyms or related words for suffering?

troubles, trouble, distressed

Now how many do you have? 7 times

Do you see a connection between suffering and comfort? Reflect.

we are comforted in our suffering

comfort can be given in suffering

we share in sufferings and comfort

comfort helps produce patient endurance in sufferings

sometimes suffering can be for someone else's comfort

TOOL #3- LISTS (KEY WORDS)

A list is simply a compilation of every fact you have found about a particular key word, subject, person, or place.

We can make a list about everything we learn about Paul, the author of these verses in his letter to the Philippians.

EXAMPLE "I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless." Philippians 3:5-6 (NIV)

REMEMBER! → NOT ALL LISTS COME FROM KEY WORDS OR PHRASES

TOOL #3- LISTS (SERIES)

When you come across three or more words/phrases in a series, you should take note of them as a list.

Explore the significance of the list.

"...,then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." Philippians 2:2 (NIV)

EXAMPLE

Here, Paul is listing things that need to be done to make his joy complete.

LET'S PRACTICE

Grab your Bible and read Isaiah 9:6-7.

this will all happen to and through the
child by the zeal of the Lord Almighty

Make a list of all the things you learn about the child who will be born.

the child is born, it's a son who is given

the greatness of his government and

government will be on his shoulders

peace there will be no end

will reign on David's throne

will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty

will establish and uphold his kingdom

God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

with justice and righteousness

will establish and uphold his kingdom

with justice and righteousness from

birth to forever

Now read 1 Samuel 9:1-2

Make a list of all the things you learn about Saul.

a Benjamite

His father, Kish, was was a man of standing

more handsome than any other in Israel

handsome, young man

a head taller than everyone else I

READ this verse:

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
—comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:16 (NIV)

Write the words or phrases in the series list.

lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life

READ this verse:

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-
discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

Write the words or phrases in the series list.

power, love and self-discipline