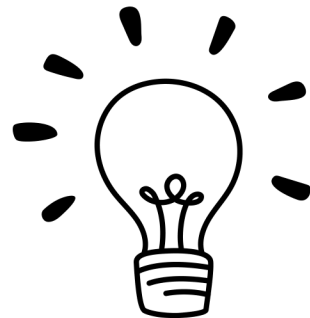


TOOL #2 - KEY WORDS

“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? _____

How many times does the key word appear? _____

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? _____

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? _____

Who comforts? _____

Is comfort used in the same way each time? _____

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

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? _____

Now how many do you have? _____

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

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 9:6-10.

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

Now read 1 Samuel 9:1-2

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

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.

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.
