

TOOL #4 - COMMANDS

Take note of any commands that God gives to the audience in the passage. Remember, commands may have been directed towards a particular person or group at a particular time while other commands are universal in scope.

EXAMPLE

Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.** for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

YOUR TURN

What commands do you notice in these verses?

TOOL #5 - PROMISES

Take note of any promises that God makes to a person or to His people. Just like commands, promises may have been directed towards a particular person or group at a particular time while other promises are universal in scope.
A hint for finding promises, look for "I will" statements.

EXAMPLE

"The Lord himself **goes before you** and **will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.** Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

YOUR TURN

What promises do you notice in these verses?

LET'S PRACTICE

For some more time in the Word this week and extra practice we want you to read a set of passages. As you read you are going to record everything you notice about God. No detail is too small. Then reflect on all that you have learned about God. Now go back through your list and see if you can find any commands or promises.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE EXERCISE

Read Isaiah 41:13-14 (NIV)

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. 14 Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, little Israel, do not fear, for I myself will help you," declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel."

Record everything you notice about God

- I take hold of your right hand
- He says, do not fear, I will help you
- He says, do not be afraid, do not fear
- for He will help
- He is redeemer
- He is the Holy One of Israel

Look, did you notice any commands or promises in your list?

- Do not fear- command
- He will help- promise
- Do not be afraid- command

YOUR TURN

Read (as many or as few as you like) Isaiah 40:28-31, Isaiah 43:1-3, Psalm 9:7-9, 18, Psalm 27:1-2, 4-5, Psalm 46:1-2, 8-10, Psalm 86:5-10, Psalm 103:1-12.

Record everything you notice about God.

Look for any commands or promises.

Now that you are done recording all that you have learned about God and noted any commands or promises, take a few moments and pray.
Praise God for all that He has shown you about Himself.