

TOOL #6 - COMPARISONS

Highlight things that are similar-most often using "like" or "as" but not always

To teach on comparisons we have to look at a bigger topic - figures of speech.

Figures of Speech: think colorful expressive language. A word or phrase used for emphasis, clarity, or a creative way to express oneself.

Why is this important?- Figures of speech may allow our minds to wander. This can lead to misinterpreting the text. When observing the text we need to know if the author is using literal (direct) or figurative (expressive) language.

We are highlighting two common figures of speech- simile and metaphor

EXAMPLES

SIMILE

"**As** the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." Psalm 42:1 (NIV)

A comparison made

using like or as

"**Like** newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." 1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

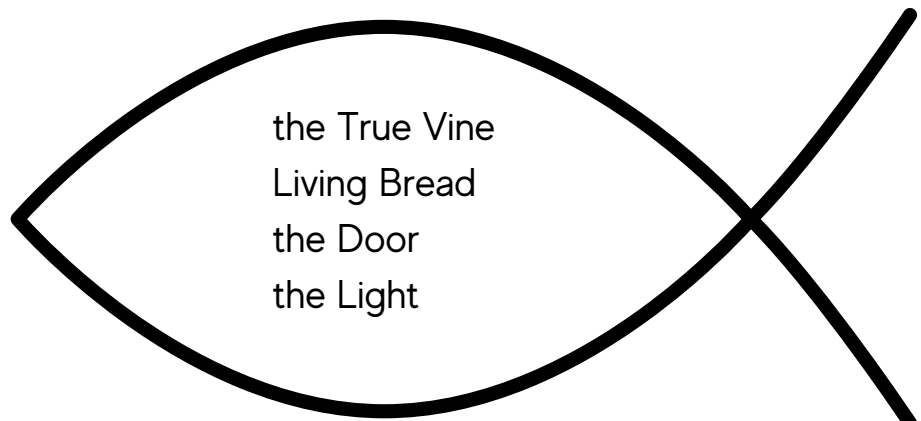
METAPHOR

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

A comparison made Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

not using like or as

Jesus used numerous metaphors to describe Himself saying I AM...



TOOL #7 - CONTRASTS

Contrasts are the flip side of comparisons.
Contrasts highlight how things are unlike.

These words are meant to attract the eye of the observer.

Here are some examples of words that indicate a contrast:

But, However, In spite of, Instead of, Nevertheless, On the other hand, Yet.

Things to keep in mind:

- You don't need one of these words to indicate a contrast.

For example - light and dark, hot and cold.

"And" is not a contrasting word, yet these phrases often indicate a contrast.

- You need to look for contrasting thoughts and phrases as well as words.

For example - Psalm 1:3-4 says, "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away."

Notice these verses contrast the wicked to the person planted by streams of water.

- Not everything you think is a contrast actually is. When we hear the words night and day we immediately think of a contrast. And more than likely it is. However, you need to look at context to determine if it really indicates a contrast.

For example - 2 Timothy 1:3 says, "I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." Here Paul is not contrasting night and day, rather he is telling you the times at which he prays.

- That the most common word used to indicate a contrast is **BUT**

For example - Proverbs 14:31 says, "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, **but** whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

LET'S PRACTICE- COMPARISONS

READ this verse: Proverbs 25:26 (NIV)

Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked.

What is being compared in this verse? _____

READ this verse: Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

What is being compared in this verse? _____

READ these verses: Matthew 5:14-16

What is the metaphor in verse 14? _____

What do you learn from the comparison being drawn in these verses?

READ these verses: James 3:3-6

These verses compare the "tongue" to three different things. (Bonus: Do you notice a metaphor?)

Can you identify the three things? _____

LET'S PRACTICE- CONTRASTS

READ this verse: Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

What is being contrasted? _____

READ these verses: 1 John 1:5-7

What are the two main things being contrasted in these verses? _____

The contrast of light and darkness can be seen in two different ways in these verses.

What do you learn about the nature of God from the contrast? _____

What do you learn about how we are supposed to walk from the contrast? _____

BONUS (Dig Deeper): Read The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and take particular notice of any comparisons or contrasts!