

OBSERVATION

Twenty Things to Notice

Themes

Main ideas that are repeated throughout the book
2Thess – Suffering, Second Coming

Repeated Words/Ideas

Only repeated in certain portions of a book
Gal – grace, law, faith

People

Main characters, people, people groups, author, audience
Titus 1:10-12 – Circumcision Party, Cretans

Locations

Geographic locations found on a map or general references to location
Eph 2:6 "...and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ..."

Events

Significant events recorded or referred to by the author
1Sam. 13:1-19:8 – Absalom usurps David's throne

Time References

Before, after, during, while, then, until, when, etc.
Eph 1:4 "...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world..."

Contrasts

Can be identified by the word "but" or seen in broader contrasts of ideas, people, events, etc.
Philemon v14 "...not by compulsion but of your own free will"

Comparisons

Often introduced by the words "like" or "as" but can also be seen in the broader comparison of ideas, people, events, etc.
Philemon 17 "receive him as you would receive me."

Conditional Statements

"If ... then ..."
Gal 6:3 "For if any one thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

Connectives

Reflect reasons, results and conclusions
Therefore, yet, however, likewise, so then, nevertheless, so that, because, for, etc.
Phil 2:8-9 "and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him."

Commands

Instructions to follow
Phil 2:14 "Do all things without grumbling or questioning"

Promises

Statements of hope
John 4:14 "...but whoever drinks of the water I give him will never thirst..."

Warnings

Caution offered by the author
Phil 3:2 "Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers ..."

Predictions

Anticipates a future event
Mark 13:26 "And then they will see the Son of man coming in the clouds ..."

Questions and Answers

Could be a rhetorical question or a question asked by the author or audience. May or may not be followed by an answer
Gal 3:19 "Why then the law?" followed by the answer.

Illustrations

Illustrations from scripture, everyday life situations or the personal experience of the author or audience
Prov 6:6-8 – Ants

Quotes/Allusions

Old Testament or Extra-biblical direct quotes or allusions
Gal 3:6 "Thus Abraham 'believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness'"

Emphatic Statements

A strong statement emphasized in some way
Mark 12:43 "Truly, I say to you..."

Lists

A list of three or more things
Gal 5:22-23 "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, ..."

Emotion/Atmosphere/Mood

Gentle, joyful, angry, rebuking, etc.
Gal 3:1 "O foolish Galatians!"

DIGGING INTO THE LETTER TO PHILEMON

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Person - Philemon (v1)

EXAMINE: *What is said about Philemon?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Person - Onesimus

EXAMINE: *What is said about Onesimus?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Contrast (v9)

EXAMINE: *What is contrasted?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATON

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Contrast (v13-14)

EXAMINE: *What is contrasted?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Repeated Word - Love (v4,7,9)

EXAMINE: *What is said about love?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

It's Your Turn

Review the list of 20 things to notice and then practice noticing things in the text.

Practice examining by taking a closer look at what is said and asking a clarifying question. Practice on the examples provided below.

Take a look at what is said about Paul. Ask an examining question and answer it based on what is said in the text.

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Person - Paul

EXAMINE: *What is said about Paul?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Take a look at the contrast that appears in v16. Ask an examining question and answer it based on what is said in the text.

OBSERVATION

NOTICE: Contrast (v16)

EXAMINE: *What is contrasted?*

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION