

Growth Track

Module 3: How Do I Grow

Student's Notes

Lesson Three - The Word

Annex

³He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:
"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

¹⁸ "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: ¹⁹The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. ²⁰The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. ²²The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. ²³The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

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I. SPECIFIC THINGS TO OBSERVE

Key words

Look out for words which are important, or repeated often.

Imperative verbs

Imperative verbs are admonitions, advice, warnings, promises, or encouragement.

Cause-and-effect relationships

Look for reasons or the results of actions.

Contrasts and comparisons

Contrasts would associate things that are opposite. Comparisons would associate things that are similar.

Repetition and progression of ideas

Questions

Look for questions and how they are used, e.g. to introduce an idea, summarise a series of ideas, or challenge our thinking.

Important connectives

E.g. prepositions, conjunctions.

Grammatical construction

These include the use of verbs, nouns, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives.

Atmosphere

Note the general tone of the passage.

General structure

Note the arrangement of ideas in a passage and the relationship of verses to each other.

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An Example of Classifications of the Books of the Bible

Categories	Examples of Books
Law books	Exodus, Leviticus
Historical books	Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel
Poetic and Wisdom books	Job, Psalms, Proverbs
Prophetic books	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel
The Gospels	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
Epistles	Ephesians, Colossians

II. SEEK TO INTERPRET

Build mental images.

Try to imagine what people in narratives would see, hear or feel.

Ask questions.

Ask “why” in order to get to the bottom of what the writers intended.

Define words.

Look for the definition of key words.

Compare translations.

Compare a more literal translation such as the New King James Version with a more contemporary translation such as the New Living Translation.