

Bible Study Methods

Part 1: Words About Words

Pre-class exercise: Define the word green. _____

- **Important reminder about the uniqueness of the Bible:**
 - a. The Bible is a divine **book**.
 - b. The Bible is a **divine** book.
 - c. Our goal, then, is to understand the meaning of the text.
 - i. A challenge
 - ii. An encouragement
- **Words have a range of meaning. A single word can have different meanings depending on how it is being used—that is its context.**
 - a. Look at the word called:
 - i. Jude 1
 - ii. 1 Cor. 1:23-24
 - iii. Matthew 22:14
 - b. A word can be used differently in different situations, but what the word means is determined by its context.
 - i. While words have a range of meaning, they usually only mean one thing in a particular verse.
 - ii. The exception to this can be found in puns, or word plays.
 - iii. How to not understand words.

c. Biblical words often have different meanings than those words mean today.

i. Hope

1. As defined by google: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. As a verb—to want something to happen or be the case.

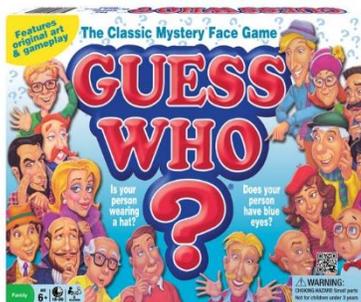
2. Titus 1:1-2

• **How to identify the best words for word studies:**

a. Some guidelines for identifying the most important words for a word study.

- i. Unclear: You don't understand what the word means.
- ii. Contextual-crucial: The meaning of the text hangs on the meaning of this word.
- iii. Theological significant: The word has a profound theological meaning.
- iv. Figurative or symbolic: The word alludes to or stands for something else.
- v. Compared or contrasted: The word is used in relationship to other important words.
- vi. Repeated: The word is repeated in the passage.

b. Steps in a word study:



“You start by establishing all the possibilities, and then you strategically eliminate them, until you arrive at your best assessment.” -Trent Rogers

- i. Identify the most significant or unclear words.
- ii. Establish the possible meanings of the word.

- iii. Gather all the uses of this word in the Bible (if possible).
- iv. Analyze this text to discern the most likely meaning for the specific use of the word.
- v. Check your assessment with other translations and commentaries.

c. Let's try it out:

- i. John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (ESV)
- ii. Note: What to do with proper nouns and locations.

Homework

- Read the book of Philippians in one sitting at least once this week.
- Spend time looking at the following verses and identify which words would be most helpful to do a word study on:

Phil. 1:27

Phil. 3:1

Phil. 3:21