

Ephesians

A Real Piece of Work

Week Eight

A friend's Dad had an expression that she likes to quote. When her mom was telling a story, figuratively circling the subject...getting caught up in the details of who said what, and what happened next, and why, and all the implications of that... He would say, "Land the plane, JoAnn!" He meant, "OK, that's enough detail. Just give me the bottom line."

*There comes a point in Bible Study that we have to "land the plane." We've closely observed a passage in detail and tried to explain what the details mean. Then, we need to step back from all those details and get to the bottom line, sum it all up. For some of us this is a challenge. We like details. We specialize in details. We're good at details. But there is value in seeing what all those details add up to. That's the final step in the Interpret Stage of Inductive Bible Study. We're calling it "**Sum It Up.**" As briefly as we can manage, we explain what the focus passage is all about. We're not going for a general, sweeping message here...just what the author's words communicated to his original readers. Here are a couple of examples:*

- *John 4:1-42* *Jesus has a life-changing conversation with a Samaritan woman.*
- *Philippians 2:1-5* *Paul urges the group unity that comes from individual humility.*

It's not too hard once you get the hang of it. But it may take a little practice. This week you might like to get some extra practice by going back over past weeks' focus passages and trying your hand at writing a "Bottom Line" for them.

Week Eight Homework

Observe (What Do I SEE?)

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (NIV)

Observations

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just

as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

“Lump and Label”...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

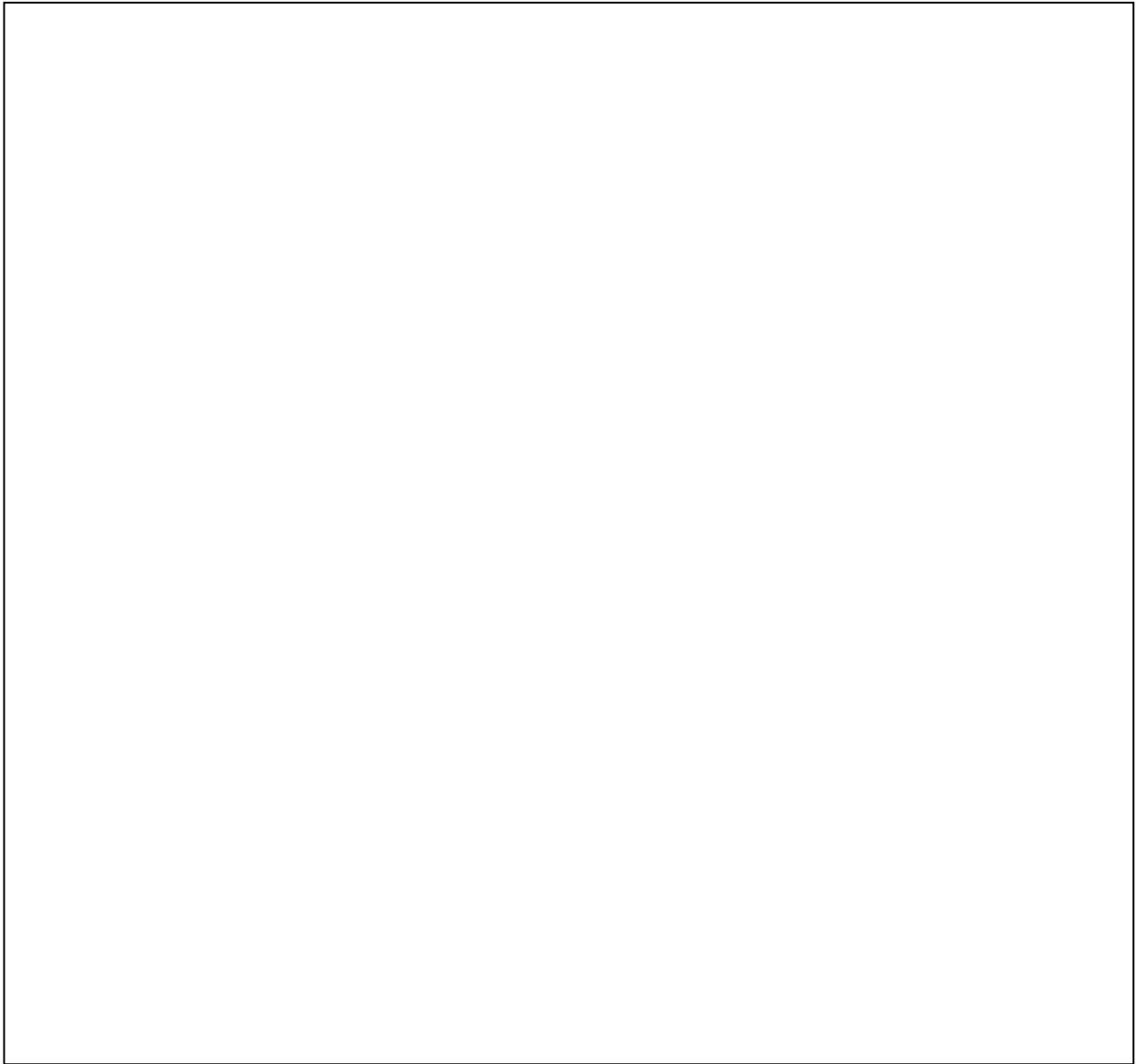
List any questions you have about this passage.

Interpret (What Does it MEAN?)

Use your Interpretation Tools to gain insight...we have introduced several tools (listed below) to help us answer the "What does it mean?" questions. Use any that would be helpful to you.

- Context
- Dictionary
- Alternate translations
- Cross references

Record what you find.



Sum It Up...in one sentence, answer the question, "What was that about?"
Stick to what the passage meant to the writer and his original readers. Don't
generalize the message at this time.



Apply (How Does it WORK?)

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

S—a SIN to avoid

P—a PROMISE to claim

E—an EXAMPLE to follow

C—a COMMAND to obey

K—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

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