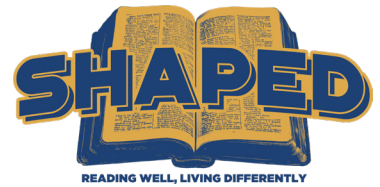


## EXERCISE

# Learning Learning to Listen Well



Before you can interpret what Scripture means or apply it to your life, you have to see what's actually there. This exercise trains the first skill of our Bible study method: observation.

### Observation Practice

Your passage: "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:1-11 (ESV)

Read the passage at least three times before making the following observations. No commentaries or study notes yet — just observe.

### The W's and H — What does the text actually say?

WHO is speaking? Who is being addressed?

WHAT happened? What actions or conditions are described?

WHEN did this take place? What do you think took place before or after this?

WHERE is the author? Where is the audience? Any other location details to notice?

WHY did this happen? Why do you think the author is writing this; what's the occasion?

HOW does this work?

### Look for Patterns — Work through these five and note what you find — even small things count.

EMPHASIZED — What gets the most space? What stands out?

REPEATED — What words or ideas appear more than once?

RELATED — Do you see connections between different parts of the passage?

ALIKE or UNALIKE — Does the author compare or contrast anything?

### Questions for the Author

List at least three things you noticed but you would like to understand better. You don't have to answer them here — just ask.

Consider discussing your experience with your small group: What surprised you in the text that you might have skipped over in a casual read?



