

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) TODAY WE WILL CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF APPLYING SCRIPTURES BY LOOKING AT TIMELESS, CROSS-CULTURAL, BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) RECOGNIZING AND VALUING PRINCIPLES
- 2) GUIDELINES FOR STATING PRINCIPLES
- 3) WORKING WITH PRINCIPLES

PART 1 – RECOGNIZING AND VALUING PRINCIPLES:

EXAMPLE 1) FOUR FORMS OF PRINCIPLES...

Principles come in four different forms; command, warning, promise, timeless truth:

A command

- “You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14)
- “Do to others what you would have them to do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)
- “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19–20)
- Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

A warning

- “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15)
- “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.” (Matthew 24:4–5)

A promise

- Jesus is “with [us] always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)
- “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me.” (John 14:3)
- Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31) This promise is a true principle, no matter who says it.
- “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

A timeless truth or proverb

- “It is not good for man to be alone.” (Genesis 2:18)
- “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me [Jesus].” (Matthew 28:18)
- To bear fruit, a believer must abide in Jesus, the True Vine. (John 15:1–5)
- Love is patient. (1 Corinthians 13:4)
- Faith without deeds is dead. (James 2:26)

Q 1) WHAT IS THE FIRST BENEFIT OF PRINCIPLES?

Q 2) WHAT IS THE SECOND BENEFIT OF PRINCIPLES?

Q 3) WHAT IS THE THIRD BENEFIT OF PRINCIPLES?

Q 4) WHAT IS THE FOURTH BENEFIT OF PRINCIPLES?

PART 2 – GUIDELINES FOR STATING PRINCIPLES:

Q 5) WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD WE ASK TO EXEGETE A PASSAGE?

Q 6) WHAT ARE THE THREE STEPS TO FINDING PRINCIPLES?

EXAMPLE 3) BAD EXAMPLES OF STATING PRINCIPLES...**The temptation of Adam & Eve:**

- Bad principle: Satan usually tempts people by speaking through snakes or other animals (Genesis 3:1).
- Bad principle: The first forbidden fruit was sex (Genesis 3:3).

Bad examples of prosperity:

- Bad principle: God will give you the land—every place you set your foot (Deuteronomy 11:24–25).
- Bad principle: God wants all believers to have 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels (Job 42:12).

Bad examples principles that contradict other Scripture:

- Bad principle: The gospel is only for Jews, not Gentiles (Matthew 10:5). This principle contradicts verses like Matthew 28:18–20 and Romans 1:16.
- Bad principle: Your enemies will flee seven different ways before you (Deuteronomy 28:7). This may be true at times today, as it was at times in the Old Testament. But it contradicts many verses in the New Testament.

EXAMPLE 4) GOOD EXAMPLES OF MAIN PRINCIPLES...

- Satan likes to emphasize what God forbids and ignore what God approves (Genesis 3:1).
- Satan likes to hide the results of sin (Genesis 3:4).
- Satan likes to tempt us by mixing good with evil (Genesis 3:4–6).
- Satan knows sin brings separation from God, judgment, and a curse (Genesis 3:8–19, 22–24).
- God provides a way for us to return to Him and overcome sin (Genesis 3:15, 21).

PART 3 – WRAPPING UP:

1. Complete the chart by stating whether each statement is a command, warning, promise, timeless truth, or not a principle:

Scripture	Statement	Description
John 14:15	Those who love Jesus obey Him.	
Mark 8:15	Beware of the leaven of false teachers.	
John 16:13	The Spirit will guide believers into all truth.	
Matthew 28:6	An angel told the women about the resurrection.	

2. Complete this chart by illustrating the principles:

Principle	Illustration
The earnest prayers of a righteous person influence God (James 5:16).	
"A gentle answer turns away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1).	
"Love is patient" (1 Corinthians 13:4).	

3. Complete this chart by stating a principle related to the verse and its context:

Bible Verse	Principle
"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).	
"They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all" (Mark 16:18).	
"He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword" (Acts 12:2).	

