



TRAINING SESSION

Applying the Bible Well



What Is Application?

DEFINITION

Application answers the “So what?” question of Bible teaching. It shows how biblical truth should be **lived out** in the world and in our hearts. It is rooted in the conviction that God’s Word is meant to **transform us**, not just **inform us** (*James 1:22–25*).

QUOTE TO REFLECT ON

“The Bible was not given for our information, but for our transformation.” – *D.L. Moody*

Where Does Application Impact?

Application shapes every area of life, calling for transformation in four key areas:

Worldview – It renews our thinking, shaping how we see ourselves, others, and God (*Romans 12:2*).

Spiritual State – It deepens our walk with Christ and our grasp of the gospel (*Colossians 2:6–7*).

Corporate Meaning for the Church – It helps us understand our place in the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:12–27*).

The Heart – It addresses what we love and desire (*Proverbs 4:23*), aiming for deep heart transformation.

Why Is Application Essential?

APPLICATION ENSURES THE BIBLE IS MORE THAN JUST THEORY

Application ensures that Bible teaching does not stay in the realm of abstract ideas but leads to **real, gospel-driven transformation**.

APPLICATION MAKES THE BIBLE PERSONAL

Without application, the Bible can feel **distant** and **theoretical**.

APPLICATION CHALLENGES THE HEART

Right application goes beyond behaviour; it **addresses the heart** (*Proverbs 4:23*).

APPLICATION PREVENTS SHALLOW TEACHING

It is easy to stay at the level of “be good” or “be kind,” but true application digs deeper into **why** we obey—**because of Christ**.

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Moralism Over the Gospel – Application is not about making children “better people” but about calling them to **depend on Christ**.

Forcing Application Where It Doesn't Fit – Some passages are meant to build knowledge of God, not immediately produce an action. Be discerning.

Making Application Too Vague – Avoid unclear statements like “Trust God” without explaining **how** that trust affects daily life.

How to Make Application Specific

7.1 GENERAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What does this passage teach about God, myself, and the world?
- How does this truth challenge my thinking, desires, or priorities?
- What response does this passage call for—faith, repentance, obedience, or trust?
- How does this passage shape how I live at home, at school, or in church?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with others?

7.2 APPLICATION IN KEY AREAS OF LIFE

With God – Knowing Him Better and Living for Him

- What truth about God do I need to believe and trust?
- How does this passage call me to love, obey, or worship God?
- What promise from God do I need to hold onto in my life right now?
- Is there a sin I need to confess and turn from?

With Myself – Growing in Christlike Character

- How does this passage challenge my attitudes, desires, or priorities?
- What fears, doubts, or struggles does this truth address in my life?
- How does this passage shape the way I speak, think, or make decisions?

With Others – Living Out Faith in Community

- How does this passage call me to love, serve, or encourage others?
- Who do I need to forgive, reconcile with, or show kindness to?
- How can I reflect Christ in my relationships at home, school, or church?

With the World – Standing Firm in Faith

- How does this passage equip me to live as a Christian in a non-Christian world?
- How does this truth prepare me to resist temptation or stand against cultural pressures?
- How does this passage encourage me to share my faith with others?

PRAY: For our own hearts, for the children & young people, and for the process of preparing

Prep

- **Read:** re-read, listen to it being read aloud.
- **Content:** Repeated words/phrases, genre, link words, surprises, structure, characters, dialogue, images/word pictures
- **Context:** Chapter, Book, Biblical Theology
- **Questions:** What don't you understand? How does context help? Commentaries/material.

Reflect

- **Personal:** What have you learned about your God? How should you respond to what you've learned?
- **Group:** Who are the young people you are teaching? Where are they spiritually? What is life like for them at the moment?

Big Idea & So What?

- **Big Idea:** What is the big idea of the passage? Is that a main point that a child would understand? Is it language they can handle? Is it ONE main point?
- **So What?** I want the children to understand/believe/learn...How will this impact their life? What does it look like to put this into practice? What does it look like for those already trusting Jesus? What does it look like for those who are not-yet Christians? (Application points)

Plan

- **Structure:** How will you explain your big idea? Do your sections reflect the sweep of the narrative/passage? Keep points simple. How will you point to Christ?
- **Applications:** How does this truth impact the lives of your children? Why does it matter? What does it change?
- **Illustrations:** How can you shed light on the passage and its implications using examples the children will recognise?
- **Memory:** How will you help the children remember? Visual aids/crafts/repeated phrases/discussion questions.

Write

- Flesh out your plan. Remember to use words you would say. Remember repetition helps us listen. Try not to use Christian jargon. Make it age appropriate. Take care in how to explain any big Bible words or concepts carefully.
- Don't forget the 'So What?'
- Keep to time. 100-150 words per minute.

Deliver

- **Prepare.** Gather your props and visuals. Rehearse your talk (multiple times). Consider how you use your voice. Pray for yourself and your hearers.
- Get a good night's rest and arrive in good time.