

D22



Monthly Practice 3: Studying Scripture

Reading Scripture is a good thing! In fact, it is essential for the believer, and equips us as disciples...

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Q: But *how* do we read Scripture to get the most out of it? How do we make sure we understand what it is *really* saying, and not just what we *want* it to say? This is called “**Hermeneutics.**” There are lots of books/websites/resources to help you do this. Here are some tips...

1. Cross-Reference

Luke 24:27 “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

You cannot fully understand the OT or the NT without the other. The OT points to its fulfillment in Jesus, and the NT is best understood against the backdrop of the OT. The cross-reference part of your Bible helps you see the continuity between the two to give a fuller picture.

2. Understand the Context.

“Scripture was written *for* us, but it was not written *to* us.” -John Walton

When Scripture was originally written, it was written to a specific people from a specific culture living in a specific part of the world. This means that we will not understand things the same way they would have understood them in the original context! In order to get a better understanding, some good questions to ask are:

- What comes immediately before?
- What comes immediately after?
- Is there an underlying theme in the whole chapter/book?
- What cultural things are going on that are different from my own?
- Is this *descriptive* or *prescriptive*?
- What literary genre is this book of the Bible?

3. View all Scripture through the lens of who Jesus is.

Because Jesus fulfills the OT (**Matthew 5:17**), this changes the way we understand and apply the OT laws to our lives. The book of **Hebrews** is a good example of how the person of Jesus completely changes our understanding and application of the OT ceremonial worship practices.

4. Use additional resources. See below for some examples.

Test Case: Luke 9:57-62 (In the video, Mike and Rob walk through these verses asking questions and making observations as an example)

As we take time to dig beneath the surface, we will start to gain a deeper understanding of God's word. It's amazing that the gospel can be understood by a child, and yet professional Bible scholars are *still* studying it and finding new insights today. It is a treasure chest full of truth, so let's not be content with a few pennies off the top!

As always, you can email us with questions or to share stories of what God is doing in your D-22 groups (mike@canvaschurch.ca or filgates@hotmail.com).

Additional Resources:

Bible Dictionaries (like this one https://www.amazon.ca/Holman-Illustrated-Bible-Dictionary-Brand/dp/0805499350/ref=sr_1_2?crd=B5RE83J62J86&keywords=bible+dictionary&qid=1656100912&srefix=bible+dictionary%2Caps%2C258&sr=8-2)

Bible Commentaries (NIV Application series, Tyndale series, Warren Weirsbe series, etc.)

Study Bibles (like this one https://www.amazon.ca/Application-Study-Bible-Leathersoft-Letter/dp/0310452821/ref=sr_1_4?crd=L79MONHJ6DEA&keywords=life+application+study+bible&qid=1656101004&srefix=life+application+study+bi%2Caps%2C131&sr=8-4)

Concordance (usually at the back of your Bible)

Cultural Background Studies (like this [https://www.amazon.ca/lvp-Bible-Background-Commentary-](https://www.amazon.ca/lvp-Bible-Background-Commentary-Testament/dp/0830814191/ref=sr_1_1?crd=17NM0VI3PPJ6P&keywords=the+ivp+bible+background&qid=1656101065&srefix=the+ivp+bible+backgroun%2Caps%2C127&sr=8-1)

[Testament/dp/0830814191/ref=sr_1_1?crd=17NM0VI3PPJ6P&keywords=the+ivp+bible+background&qid=1656101065&srefix=the+ivp+bible+backgroun%2Caps%2C127&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/lvp-Bible-Background-Commentary-Testament/dp/0830814191/ref=sr_1_1?crd=17NM0VI3PPJ6P&keywords=the+ivp+bible+background&qid=1656101065&srefix=the+ivp+bible+backgroun%2Caps%2C127&sr=8-1))