

GT

How to Study the Bible

Redeemer Church

Taught by Jeff Medders

Exercise #1: Humpty Dumpty.

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's horses and all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty back together again.*

Draw the story.

Wherever you are at today in your knowledge of the Bible, or your perceived skill of studying the Bible, there is one thing we all need to do:

TOOLBOX:

Lose your assumptions.

We all come to the Bible (really anything we observe, watch, eat, read, etc.) with preconceived ideas about what is already there.

Let the Text Speak.

Where does meaning come from? The *Reader* or the *Text*? Are we allowed to interpret *Harry Potter* how ever we like? Or are we to figure out what Rowling's intentions, and what she meant to communicate to the reader?

Martin Luther: Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason-I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other-my conscience is captive to the Word of God. = **Sola Scriptura**

The Primary Source for Understanding the Bible: The Text & The Author.

Church History, commentaries, etc. are helps, but are all second to the text.

The 21st Century Isn't Allowed to Change the 1st Century, or 749 B.C. or even the 18th Century.

Words Change overtime. As the reader, we need to do the best we can and, if reading the New Testament, get ourselves into the thinking, culture, and vocabulary of the First Century.

Example:

What does *buff* mean today? What did it mean 100 years ago?
What does *gay* mean today? What did it mean 100 years ago?

**When baby Charlie is in the buff,
he is absolutely gay.**

Don't change Baby Charlie's life by interpreting that imaginary sentence from the 19th century by 21st century thinking.

TOOLBOX: Slow. Down. Pay Attention to the Words.

We do sit down and read the Bible, we can read too quickly.

To be a good student of the Bible is to be a student of words:

- Plural or singular?
- Past, present, or future tense?
- Repetition
- Conjunctions
- Contrasts

Meaning is found in sentences, which are made up with words.

Example:

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

(Galatians 3:16 ESV)

Paul's argument is that the covenant made with Abraham is fulfilled and found in Jesus Christ. What does Paul's argumentation hang on? A major doctrine is banked on one letter.

The Priority of the Word

Studying the Bible is hard work—and the benefits and rewards are immeasurable. *Can you quantify the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus?*

Reading the Bible is a skill, something you can learn, and it is one of the most important things you can do on this earth, for yourself, for your neighbors, and for the glory of God.

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, **being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed**. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

(1 Timothy 4:6–8 ESV)

Train. Greek: *gymnazo*, to train in gymnastic discipline; hence, to exercise in anything, train to use, discipline.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**”

(2 Timothy 2:15 ESV)

Do your best? Are you doing your best?

The Greek word gives the idea of making a strong effort. Make a strong effort to rightly handle the truth, meaning: cut straight, no perversion.

There is no shortcut to godliness.

What is Jesus's going to use to change us?

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having **cleansed her by the washing of water with the word**, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

(Ephesians 5:25–27 ESV)

We Need Passion for God

What was the last book you read? Why did you read that book instead of a manual on forging 18th century weaponry?

Three factors: Need. Desire. Expectation.

We need God's Word because we need God.

We desire God.

We expect God to do something for our good and his glory.

How Much Bible Do We need?

Jesus says...

It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

(Matthew 4:4 ESV)

Paul says...

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

(Romans 10:17 ESV)

A Case for Daily Encounters with the Word of God

33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

34 Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching **daily** at my gates, waiting beside my doors.

35 For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD,

36 but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.

- Proverbs 8:33-36

The Spirit of God tells us that we are blessed by daily encounters with the wisdom of God. And there are many ways to have daily interactions with the living word of God.

- **Reflecting**
- **Meditating**
- **Memorizing**
- **Reading**

- **Hearing**
- **Singing**

The Word (Christ) and The Word (The Bible)

We get in the Bible because we are in Christ, we want to behold Christ, and our lives our for our Emperor Christ.

The Bible is the authoritative word of Christ.

- And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the **word of God**, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.
(1 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV)

When the Bible speaks, it is as though Jesus himself is speaking to us. They are not meant to be divided. Romans 10:17, "The word of Christ." All through Acts we see, "The word of the Lord" and "The word of God" used interchangeably.

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
(John 1:1 ESV)
- He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.
(Revelation 19:13 ESV)

TOOLBOX: Context. Context. Context.

Example 1

"I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows; so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you."

What does that sound like?

Example 2

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
(Hebrews 4:12 ESV)

What is this verse talking about?

Now, Read Hebrews 4:12-14.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

(Hebrews 4:12-14)

Now, what is this verse talking about?

When stuck, when in doubt, read the context.

Follow the Pattern of Escalating Context

1. Verses — Does the immediate verse or surrounding verses answer the question?
2. Paragraph — Does the current paragraph provide any insight?
3. Section — What about the section?
4. Chapter — How does this sentence/question/word fit in this chapter?
5. Book — How has Luke used this phrase throughout Acts?
6. Series — Has Paul said anything like to in 1 Corinthians? (If reading 2 Corinthians.)
7. Author — How else John speak of the love of God?
8. Testament — Where else does the Holy Spirit write about this?
9. Canon — What does Moses, Isaiah, etc. have to say about Paul's teaching of a substitute dying for sinners?

Martin Luther and the Rule of Faith: LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE.

Example 4:

Matthew 7:1 “Don’t judge lest you be judged.” Is reduced to saying, “Don’t judge me.” But the following verses tell us how to ‘judge’ (cross reference w/ John 7:24 “judge with right judgment.”)

Example 5

Matthew 18:20. "Where two or three are gathered in my name." Used typically to say that where 2 or 3 believers are meeting, Jesus is there too. That's true, but in *context* it means, that in the process of church discipline Jesus is affirming/approving what is being done. As if Jesus is not there when I am alone? And with the doctrine of God's Omnipresence...He is everywhere!

Example 3: Doubting Thomas. Let's give him a break!

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." (John 20:25 ESV)

Doubting Thomas, right? What about the context? When you read the immediate account, the other 10 got to do the very thing Thomas wanted to do.

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, **he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.** 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

24 **Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.** 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "***Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails**", and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 **Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."** 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Let's give Brother Thomas a break. (How about Doubting Peter!?) Everyone else saw the wounds, and he wanted to see them too—understandable! And Jesus answered his request.

TOOLBOX:

Approach the Bible in Prayer

You are holding a Holy Book. You are holding the Word of Christ. Treat it like the treasure that it is. Treat it like a living book, not an encyclopedia or *Google*. You only go to those when you are looking something.

Pray these as often as you can when you sit down to hear from God.

I.O.U.S

Incline my heart

Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!
(Psalms 119:36 ESV)

Open my eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.
(Psalms 119:18 ESV)

Unite my heart

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; **unite** my heart to fear your name.
(Psalms 86:11 ESV)

Satisfy me

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
(Psalms 90:14 ESV)

Jesus Christ is the answer to all of these prayers! This cannot be overstated.

The Bible is all about Jesus. Our heart is moved to want Jesus. Our eyes are opened to behold Jesus. Our heart is united and secured in Jesus. And we are satisfied forever-after with Jesus.

We pray to behold the glory of Christ.

LIFE GOAL:
Don't read the Bible like the Pharisees.
Read the Bible like the Apostles & authors of the New Testament.

Key Passages

- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear **witness about me**.
(John 5:39 ESV)
- Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
(Luke 24:44–45, and see v.27)
- For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
(2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV)
- The whole book of Hebrews.
- Yes, to this day *whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts*. But when one turns to the Lord, **the veil** is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. *And we all, with unveiled face*, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (
2 Corinthians 3:15–18 ESV)

The veil has been lifted, and now we who are in Christ can see that the Old Testament is all about Jesus. His glory shines on every page.

The Bible Has Two Authors And At Times, Will Have Two Intended Meanings

Isaiah & Matthew

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.”
(Matthew 1:21-23 ESV)

Is that what Isaiah had in mind? Yes and no.

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” 13 And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. 17 The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”
(Isaiah 7:10-17 ESV)

God tells Ahaz to ask for a sign of deliverance that their land will be cleared from Syria and Emprahmite enemies (which happened a few years later). He refuses to put God to the test, so God provides him a sign. Isaiah is giving a prophesy, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to Ahaz, that a woman who doesn't have any children will have one, and his name will be Immanuel (God is with us)—and this happens in Isaiah 8:3-4.

How is Matthew able to apply this to Jesus? Is that what Isaiah intended?

Hosea & Matthew

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. **This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”**
(Matthew 2:13-15 ESV)

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.
(Hosea 11:1 ESV)

What is Hosea prophesying about?

How should we think about this?

Inspired Human Author > His Intentions > His Audience = Fulfillment & meaning.

Holy Spirit > His Intentions > The Universal Church = Other fulfillments & meaning.

Every verse has a meaning to the direct audience (Example, Moses to the Nation of Israel, Solomon to his sons) and every verse has a direct meaning to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, **but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**" (2 Peter 1:20-21 ESV)

One of the dumbest things you may hear is that we cannot read the New Testament into the Old. That's heresy. The Apostles didn't have a problem with it.

THE BIBLE IS HISTORY. HISTORY DOESN'T CHANGE, BUT HOW WE UNDERSTAND IT DOES.

Example: The Assassination of JFK.

- 12:30pm: Shots fired.
- 1:00pm: President Kennedy is pronounced dead.

If we were there, at 12:45pm, we couldn't say a murder occurred. We'd say an attempted murder. 12:30pm didn't change, but 1:00pm changes how we look at 12:30pm. When President Kennedy died at 1:00pm, an attempted murder became an assassination.

And the incarnation, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the promised return of Jesus changes the way we look at everything else.

TOOLBOX:

The Holy Spirit, the Author, is your guide.

Our natural understanding is corrupted and can only go so far. If a pagan and a Christian can read the Bible and walk away with the same meaning, we haven't looked hard enough.

This passage from Paul is über-encouraging when it comes to reading the Bible.

6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” —

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 **Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” **But we have the mind of Christ.** (1 Corinthians 2:6-16 ESV).

POINT: Trust the Holy Spirit and take that step of faith in future grace to reap from the word..

We all have limited understanding. Don't bank on your brain—trust the Spirit to lead you, show you, instruct you, and guide you through his book.

Trust that God will provide the grace you need to understand his word, so that you may live for him.

TOOLBOX: R.E.A.P.

REAP is a systematic grid to help you think through studying the Bible. After you've prayed, begin to REAP.

READ

EXAMINE (Observe & Interpret)

APPLY

PRAY

There are many different tools that you'll find in Dig Deeper, and it will take time and wisdom to know which tools to use. You won't use every tool on every text. You don't need a circular saw for tightening up the screws on your kid's bike. It takes knowledge of the tools and of the texts to know what tools you'll need.

Read

1. **Read all of the Bible.** It's all God's word—it's all good for you (2 Tim. 3:16).
2. **Read lots of the Bible.** A vast knowledge of the Bible helps you learn more and more of the Bible, and therefore more and more about our Triune God.

When I say *sword*...what verses do you think of? *Food*? What stories?
Marriage?

3. **Read with a pen.** Mark up your Bible. It helps you see what you are seeing, it helps you remember what you've seen, and it helps you find what you saw.
4. **Read the tone of the text.** Is it exciting? Happy? Party? Is the Old Testament prophet giving a word of comfort (Isaiah 40) or a word of conviction (Isaiah 44).

Turn to Matthew 23.

Who is Jesus speaking to?

What is the tone of 11-29?

What is the tone of 37-39?

5. **Read, re-read, read slowly, read like you've never read it before.** We fast-forward, yada-yada, throughout our lives. Don't do that to the Word of God. John Piper says, "I've read the Bible for 60 years and I feel like I've just starched the surface."

Exercise:

Write out everything you can recall about the story of the Prodigal Son in two minutes.

Examine

OBSERVE & INTERPRET

Sherlock Holmes. Be like him. He looks at every tiny detail, adds it all up, and then interprets the situation.

Observation is gathering data.
Interpretation is understanding the data.

Observation: What do I see?
Interpretation: What does it mean?

OBSERVATION

1. **Repeated words.** Look in the verse, section, or book for repeated words and phrases. *Circle, box, underline, highlight, etc.*

Exercise: Find the repeated words in Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

2. **Pay attention to conjunctions & transition words.** What's the "therefore" there for?

Look for: and (connections, lists, etc.), but (contrasts), for, because (reasoning and motivation), etc.

Example:

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us.”
(Ephesians 2:1–4 ESV)

What does it show?

3. **Trace the flow of thought, ask questions:**

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1–2 ESV)

4. **Follow the Plot & Pivot Point of a Story.**

Who is Jesus talking to in Luke 15?

How does that change the tone of the text and the understanding of his parable?

INTERPRETATION

Assemble the data, and ask the Spirit, "What does this all mean?"

That's pretty much it.

Ask questions. Interrogate the text.

Who?
What?
Where?
When?
Why?
How?

Remember, meaning doesn't come from us, but from the Text. "What does Paul mean here? What is David communicating? What is the Spirit showing us?"

Example:

Eph. 6 and the Armor of God = Means that God has provided us the means to withstand spiritual attack and temptation. We are in a war. And God provides the help we need.

When you think you've arrived at the meaning, the plain and simple meaning, consider these two questions:

Is there a passage in the Bible that supports this?
Is there a passage in the Bible that sounds contrary to this?

Example:

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
(Luke 14:26 ESV)

Wrong: Hate my parents! We know the Bible teaches to honor our parents (Ephesians 6:2)

Result? Our love and commitment to Jesus isn't second place to family. Even our own hopes and dreams fall under the Lordship of Christ. He is in charge of us. When anyone crosses the Man who died on the cross, we obey Jesus.

BIG EXERCISE:

Come up with 10 observations from the following passage. Then interpret the passage.

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(John 20:30-31 ESV)

Observations:

Interpretation:

Apply

This is the point of getting into the book, to be a doer.

At this stage we add it all up together.

Cultural Challenges

Example: "You Christians! You pick and choose what you want to believe!"

How do we respond?

We don't follow some of the Old Testament codes because they've been fulfilled. Jesus fulfilled them all. In a way, Jesus amended the law by fulfilling it.

These same people don't say, "You Americans! You drink beer! You pick and choose what we want to believe and obey! The Constitution prohibits the consumption of Alcohol."

We would say, "Keep reading the document! It's been amended!"

Our response should be:
Keep reading the document!
Jesus changes everything.

There is a moral, ceremonial, and national law. And Jesus fulfilled them all. Jesus answered the laws demands in our place.

The law of Christ (Galatians 6:2) that we follow by his Spirit looks like the moral law—it's even greater!—and those are reaffirmed in the New Testament.

Are we all in unrepentant sin tonight?

**“Greet one another with a holy kiss.”
(Romans 16:16 ESV)**

Did anyone greet anyone with a holy kiss?

We ask: What is the principle?

Paul's point isn't to plant churches where everyone kisses each other—that is not our culture! Paul wants to see churches where they love and welcome each other.

Key to Application: What is the intention?

27 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
(Matthew 5:27-29 ESV)

Does Jesus want us to mutilate our bodies?
No. I'm pretty sure that blind people sin too.

His point: Take extreme measures to fight your sin.

Application is specific and personal.

Example: After reading Jesus's words in the sermon on the mount, I need to cut off my iPhone. I'm too tempted with it. I'm too weak in my flesh to have a smart phone. I need to kill this sin. It's better for me to have a "dumb" phone and me and my iPhone be throw into hell.

Examples of Application

1. Is there something I need to think rightly about?
2. Is there something I need to believe?
3. Is there something the Spirit is leading me to do?
4. Is there a sin I need to confess and repent of?
5. Is there something to model? (Abraham's faith, Paul's resolve, etc.)
6. Is there a good work to walk in?

Apply It:

In your groups, look at **John 20:30-31** again and write out 5 applications.

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(John 20:30-31 ESV)

Apply:

Pray

After you've done the study and application, now you pray for the grace to do these things. The grace of God, which is Christ trains us in righteousness.

For **the grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training** us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.
(Titus 2:11–12 ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training in righteousness**.
(2 Timothy 3:16 ESV)

But by **the grace of God** I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, **I worked harder** than any of them, **though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me**.
(1 Corinthians 15:10 ESV)

Jesus uses the Word of God to bring about godliness in our lives.

We must remember that:

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.
(Galatians 2:20–21 ESV)

And that Jesus said:

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
(John 15:5 ESV)

We pray for Jesus to help us. To give us the power to follow him. If we do that, we are making huge steps!

Pray for your maturity, your ministry, your mission.

Final Words and Encouragements

Tools:

The ESV Study Bible

The Gospel Transformation Bible

40 Questions About Interpreting by The Bible by Robert Plummer and Ben Merkle

Actions to Take:

- Read a Proverb a day
- Read through a whole book in one sitting. It's incredible.
- Make a REAP Journal.
- **REAP** a small book like Titus. Start with 1 book and REAP it like crazy.

Example:

Read Titus 1 everyday for a week.

Then read Titus 2 everyday for a week.

Then read Titus 3 everyday for a week.

Then read the whole book of Titus everyday.

You will see things in Titus that you've never seen, you will make connections that you've never seen, and you will really know the book of Titus—your brain will run to this book when questions come up.

Run the race. This is a lifetime activity. The goal isn't to master the Bible, but to be mastered by the Word of Christ, to be a follower of the risen Lord Jesus, wielding the sword of the Spirit for the glory of Christ, for growth in Christ, for your brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the mission of Christ.

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart"
(Jeremiah 15:16 ESV)