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FOUNDATION CORNERSTONE

FCS1-4-05: How to Read and Study the Bible

The Bible contains a lot of information which is presented in different ways: Sometimes the material is straightforward historical narratives or laws; Sometimes it's poetry; or comes in the form of a letters; or revelations (prophesies). Sometimes it's meant to be taken literally; and sometimes it uses figurative language and metaphors called parables. Unlike an encyclopedia, you cannot go to a certain chapter and read everything written about God; then go to another chapter to read everything about Jesus; forgiveness, salvation, etc. If we want to increase our knowledge and understanding of God's word, we need to submit to the whole Word of God (Bible) in its entirety to understand it completely. In addition to just reading the Bible, we need to listen to the spirit of God through its teachings. There is a power in our prayers when we ask God to help us understand His teachings as we read His Word.

Context: ([Merriam-Webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com)) the words that are used with a certain word or phrase and that help to explain its meaning; the situation in which something happens; the group of conditions that exist where and when something happens.

As we study the bible, we have to keep in mind the context of the examples and teachings we read, to help avoid our potential misunderstandings. In fact, most misunderstandings of the scriptures come from taking verses of scripture out of their written context. Reading in context simply means to carefully consider the verses before and after the text being studied. To take a scripture out of context is trying to understand the verse with little or no regard for the surrounding subject matter.

Another tool that we look to is called a Concordance. A Concordance is a compilation of all of the verses containing a specific word as it is used throughout the Bible. Each word appears in alphabetical order, starting where it is first used, followed by all of the verses with that word in it. By looking for a particular word, you can quickly locate nearly any verse in the Bible that has that word in it. Because a Concordance lists every use of a given word, it is extremely helpful for compiling, examining and comparing all the scriptures on a given topic (or key word). It will give an overall view of nearly any subject. Comparing various verses on the same subject will help your understanding of biblical teachings. Often we will find that different verses complement (enhance) each other, with each verse telling part of the story. There is a more detailed lesson available on [How to Use a Concordance](#).

Consider the following reading plan: If you have any questions, your mentor will be available for you.

To start your personal reading, here are a few suggestions:

1. Read **Mark**. (It is written in a more chronological order.)
2. Read **Matthew**. (It goes into better detail of some events and adds more about Jesus.)
3. Read **John**. (It contains a lot of the life of Jesus not read before, especially his last two weeks before his crucifixion.)
4. Read **Luke** then **Acts**. (Both written by Apostle Paul's traveling companion Luke. Acts is a continuation of Luke. It describes the early church and contains the examples of New Testament situations.)
5. Read **Galatians**. (It relates reasons why we in the New Testament times, are not bound to the Old Testament Laws (now fulfilled in Jesus Christ) in ways easier to understand for us than the manner of **Romans** or **Hebrews** written towards those in the Jewish tradition.)
6. Then read the rest of the New Testament starting at **Romans** and going to **Revelation**.
7. After you have read all the New Testament start reading the Old Testament books starting in **Genesis**.



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Question 1

Which answer best describes how to study a verse of scripture in context.

Read and study the verses from the start of the topic to the end of it. Then you can understand how the verse and the key words within it, were used and their respective meanings based on the way it was written and intended by the writer of it.

By taking the topic or words used and compare how they were used in others verses.

By finding a verse that tends to back the preexisting understanding desired.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)

Question 2

When reading the New Testament, why does it seem that the first four books have similar content?

Because each one of the four Gospels was given to teach us various lessons of Christ. When studied in context, each book reveals greater details of Christ and His faithfulness.

The original translators of the Bible wanted to ensure that everyone understood the words of Christ, so they repeated the Gospel four times.

Christ lived in four different times being reincarnated three times before He was holy enough to ascend.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)

Question 3

Which books of the Bible listed are believed to be written by the same author?

The *Gospel of Peter* and *Galatians*.

The *Hope of Israel* and *Revelation*.

The *Gospel of Luke* and *The Acts of the Apostles*.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)

Question 4

To understand the Biblical context of a scripture verse, what should the reader do?

Read the verses in the previous book.

Read the verses before and after the verse being studied.

Read a book written by a famous Pastor, and then read the Bible verse.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)



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Please enter your first name below:

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To be completed by the mentor

Comments from the person reviewing your lesson to student:

Successfully completed:

Yes

Not yet