

How Not to Read the Bible: What The Bible Does
February 9, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up

- What is one rule in life that you have trouble following?
- If you could ask God one question about the Bible, what would it be?

Read Together:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Deuteronomy 21:10-16

When you go to war against your enemies and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take captives, if you notice among the captives a beautiful woman and are attracted to her, you may take her as your wife. Bring her into your home and have her shave her head, trim her nails and put aside the clothes she was wearing when captured. After she has lived in your house and mourned her father and mother for a full month, then you may go to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife. If you are not pleased with her, let her go wherever she wishes. You must not sell her or treat her as a slave, since you have dishonored her.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when **I will make a new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. **No longer will they teach their neighbor,** or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because **they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,**" declares the LORD.*

John 14:18-20

*I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**. Before long, **the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me**. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you**.*

Galatians 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me**...*

1 Corinthians 6:15

*Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ himself**? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!*

Galatians 5:17

*For **the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit**, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. **They are in conflict with each other**, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*

Discuss Together:

Interpretation is the process of uncovering original meaning and intent

- Why do we often think it's bad to interpret the bible?
- How does understanding the context of a Bible passage help us interpret its meaning?
- In what ways do we sometimes "pick and choose" what we follow from the Bible? How can we be more intentional about understanding its message as a whole?
- How does the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant through Jesus change the way we live out our faith?
- How does the presence of Jesus in us shape our choices and actions?
- Who is Jesus inviting you to become as you engage with the Bible?
- "How do we see God's heart for valuing and respecting people throughout Scripture, and how does that shape the way we treat others today?"

- "When you read the Bible, what are you usually looking for, and how might intentionally looking for Jesus change the way you engage with Scripture?"

Pray:

Take some time to thank God for something He has revealed to you through His Word.