

How Not to Read the Bible: Application
February 23, 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:

- Have you ever received a message that totally changed the way you saw something?"

Read Together:

Matthew 5:17-18

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.**"*

Luke 24:27

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them **what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.***

Acts 11:26

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Also, reflect on the five points of application the message shared:

- 1. Context is both historical and Biblical.**
- 2. It's dangerous to base theology on one passage of scripture.**
- 3. Take scripture seriously, but not always literally.**
- 4. Scripture will not contradict itself, but it may cause tension for us.**
- 5. The Bible cannot mean what it never meant.**

Discuss Together:

- What stood out to you in the message this week?
- Did you have any questions or new observations from the message?
- How does understanding the historical and biblical context shape our interpretation of a passage? Can you share an example where context clarified a difficult verse?
- What are the risks of basing our theology on one isolated passage? How might this lead to a distorted view of God's overall message?
- The sermon suggests we should "take scripture seriously, but not always literally." How do you determine when to read a passage figuratively versus literally?
- How can we guard against using scripture to justify our pre-existing beliefs rather than letting it transform us? What steps have you found helpful to overcome confirmation bias?
- How does discerning the original intent of the biblical authors impact the way we apply scripture in our lives today? Can you provide an example where this made a significant difference?
- What do you think it means to apply the Bible in a way that "looks like Jesus"? How can this concept guide your understanding of what it means to live out your faith?

Pray:

Pray that God would open your hearts to hear His voice clearly and give the courage to respond in faith. Pray for Him to help you recognize how He speaks through Scripture, circumstances, and the people around you.