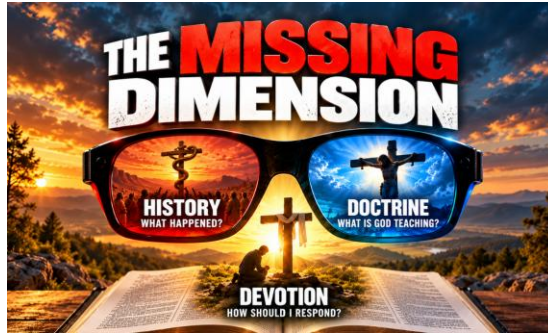




Series: How to Study the Bible in 2026

INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 2:15 – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

The Bible was written in the past, but it is written for our present learning and understanding.

Romans 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were **written for our learning**, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

1 Corinth 10:6, 11 *Now these things were **our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things... ... and **they are written for our admonition**...*

The Bible is historically perfect! And if you misunderstand the history of a passage or verse, you will violate its obvious and literal meaning. However, our goal is not just to know what happened historically. We have been learning that studying the Bible requires us to slow down and ask better questions such as: What is the context? Whose mail is this? What time is it?

Tonight, our question is, “What is God teaching here?” ...a.k.a. What is the doctrine to learn?

It is at this stage of Bible study that the Bible comes alive! After all, our goal is not simply Bible information – our goal is life transformation – and the holy Bible is alive! Living words! Amen.

1. Historical Application What actually happened?

All Scripture has a single, obvious meaning rooted in history, grammar, and literary usage.

The Bible is a book of history (The Bible has never been proven to be historically incorrect!)

The Bible is not merely a collection of religious stories. It records **real** people, places, events, and circumstances. God has chosen to work within the framework of time and space.

That means that Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth, Peter, and Paul are not fictional characters! That also means that Egypt, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Jericho are all real places! And the battles, journeys, conversations, miracles, and events happened just like it says!

We must investigate:

- ✓ **Characters** – WHO (People) – Who is involved?
- ✓ **Geography** – WHERE (Places) – Where did this happen?
- ✓ **Chronology** – WHEN (Time) – When did this happen?
- ✓ **Experience** – WHAT – (Events – What actually took place?)

Everything took place or will take place unless God says otherwise (i.e. parable or symbolism)

Before moving to application, we must establish the facts of the passage we are studying.

2. Doctrinal Application What is God teaching?

The Bible gives us **doctrine** – *teaching*. In everything God says, He teaches us something! God establishes eternal truths by “**sound doctrine**” that stands sure through the entire Bible!

First, the Bible teaches PRACTICAL truth. → (4x in Bible – 1 Tim 1:10; 2Tim 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1)

Sometimes God uses a historical event to teach us how to live or how to do something.

For example, consider the account of David and Goliath in 1st Samuel 17.

- ✓ **Historical** event: *David faced Goliath.*
- ✓ **Practical** teaching: *Faith in God is greater than dependence upon human strength.*

Second, the Bible teaches PROPHETIC truth.

God uses historical events to teach a future prophecy. This is where the Bible comes alive!

For example, consider the connection between Numbers 21 and Jesus in John 3.

- ✓ **Historical** event: *Israel was literally bitten by serpents. Moses was instructed to make a brasen serpent and place it on a pole. He did. All the people who looked upon the serpent lived. Amen.*
- ✓ **Prophetic** teaching: *Jesus Himself tells us the larger doctrinal significance.*
***John 3:14** – And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*

3. Devotional Application How should this change my life? 2 Tim 3:16-17

The Bible applies to your life **today**. Every book, chapter, and verse is *profitable* for your life!

Before making a personal application, we must understand what God is teaching.

The question we must ask is: “How must I apply what the Bible says to my personal life?”

Note: *This factor is also referred to as personal or inspirational application.*

The world has dramatically changed over time, but sin and the human heart have not changed.

The Bible exposes: pride, fear, greed, anger, lust, jealousy, unbelief, faith, obedience, forgiveness, courage, temptation, suffering... and everything else you deal with every day!

4. A Three-dimensional Bible study – the Bible is a 3D picture Book!

When we seek to understand the Bible with these three dimensions, it is life changing.

History → **Doctrine** → **Devotion**

Comparing Scriptures

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Romans 15:4 | The Bible is unlike any other book! It is a living Book of God! |
| 1 Corinth 10:1-12 | The Old Testament was written for our instruction and help! |
| Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:15 | History repeats itself; therefore... we should learn from it! |
| John 5:39, 46-47 | Ask yourself: How did Moses write of Jesus? Did he? |

Some Examples

Cain and Abel – Genesis 4:1-16; Mt 23:35; Lk 11:51; Heb 11:4; 12:24; 1Jo 3:12; Jude 11

- HISTORY *Cain did not bring God's acceptable sacrifice; he killed his brother Abel in anger.*
- DOCTRINE *These brothers prophetically point to the contrast between Christ and the Antichrist (pairs) and highlight the contrast between God's way and man's way.*
- DEVOTION *Salvation by grace versus human works. Are you trying to approach God on His terms or yours? Many devotional applications once we understand the doctrine!*

The Brasen Serpent – Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15... 3:16!

- HISTORY *Israel was bitten by serpents, and God provided a means of deliverance.*
- DOCTRINE *Jesus Christ explicitly connects it to His own lifting up on the cross in John 3:14!*
- DEVOTION *You have been bitten by sin. You will perish without Jesus Christ! Look and live!*

The Book of Job – Job 1-42; Ezekiel 14:14, 20; James 5:11

- HISTORY *Job, a good man, is attacked by Satan (unseen spiritual war) by no fault of his.*
- DOCTRINE *It prophesies of future events: God's people (Jews) during the Tribulation Period.*
- DEVOTION *How to deal with trials, suffering, and attacks from the devil! Many others!*

The Strange Woman of Proverbs – Proverbs 21:19; 5:3-7; 6:23-28; 7:1-24; Rev 17!

- HISTORY *Solomon writes faithful advice to his son. It includes practical help on temptation!*
- DOCTRINE *Israel in Trib Period being persecuted by "whore that sitteth upon many waters."
"Virtuous woman" = truth, true religion; "Strange woman" = lies, false religion*
- DEVOTION *Common sense to all men + women on avoiding bad relationships and problems.*

5. WARNING: This is not the Allegorical Method of Bible Study!

This Bible study factor is not to be confused with the abstract method of Bible study developed by the epitome of all false teachers – *Origen of Alexandria (Origen Adamantius)*.

He was influential in developing what is known as the "Allegorical Method of Bible Study" ...

It is a method of reasoning that draws everything down to a metaphorical, figurative, or symbolic perspective. The danger, when applied as a method of Bible study, is that any passage is subject to the FEELINGS or personal perspectives of the reader – enter cult leaders and doctrines of devils here! (*2 Corinthians 11:13-15*)

This leaves the passage open for assorted types of interpretation that likely have nothing to do with what God is actually saying and teaching. (*2 Peter 1:20 ... more to come*)

The bottom line is that we do not care what someone **thinks** it means... we want to know...

What does the Bible say and teach! Amen.

Beware of Bible studies like this ... read a verse, then say, "What do you think it means?"

REVIEW *

WK 1 - Introduction

WK 2 - FACTOR #1
Context

WK 3 - FACTOR #2
People

WK 4 - FACTOR #3
Time

How to Study the Bible *

Week 5

KEY POINT

#4 The Application Factor

3

All Scripture has

basic applications:

- 1) Historical - its history
true
HIS-STORY
- 2) Doctrinal
- 3) Devotional

(For dramatic results)
try...the

"Silver
Bullet"

1. Read it!

2. Write it!

Num 21:8

- And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery Serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that EVERY ONE that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, SHALL LIVE.