"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,
a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

Skill No. 3: Learn the **Context**

- **Why** Context Matters
-
    - It Helps Avoid Misunderstanding **Words**
    -
    - It Helps Avoid Misunderstanding **Phrases**
-
    - It Helps Avoid Misunderstanding **Verses**
    -
    - It Helps Avoid Misunderstanding **Passages**
    -
    - It Helps Avoid Misunderstanding **Books**
- **How** to Learn the Context
-
    - Determine the **Historical** Context:
    -
        - **Who** Wrote It?
        -
        - **To Whom** Was It Written?
        -
        - **When** Was It Written?
        -
        - **Where** Was It Written?
        -
        - **Why** Was It Written?
-
    - Determine the **Literary** Context:
    -
        - Define Key **Words**
        -
        - Determine Main Idea of the **Paragraph**
        -
        - Outline the **Chapter**
    -
        - Read and Reread the **Book**
        -
        - Read and Reread the **Bible**
        -
- **Tools** You Will Need
-
    - **A Study Bible** – Full Bible Text with Brief Footnoted Commentary
    -

- - - *ESV Study Bible*
    - *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*
    - *MacArthur Study Bible*
    - *CSB Study Bible*
-
  - **Commentaries** – Detailed Interpretation of a Biblical Book
  -
    - **Best Single Volume:** *The MacArthur Bible Commentary; The Moody Bible Commentary*
    - **Best Least-Detailed Series:** *Christ-Centered Exposition Series*
    - **Best Less-Detailed Series:** *Preaching the Word Series; ESV Expository Commentary Series*
    - **Best Detailed Series:** *MacArthur Commentary Series; Focus on the Bible Commentary Series*
-
  - **Concordance** – Alphabetical List of Biblical Words and Usage in Bible
  -
    - *Strongs*
    - *Youngs*
    - *Blue Letter Bible*
    -
  - **Bible Dictionary** – In-depth Definitions of Biblical Terms and Concepts
  -
    - *Nelsons*
    - *Vine's*
    - *Mounce's*
    - *Blue Letter Bible*
    -
  - **Bible Atlas** – Provides Geographical Context of Bible Passages
  -
    - *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*
    - *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*
    - *Holman Bible Atlas*
    - *Crossway ESV Bible Atlas*