

FRAMES

BIBLE TOOLS TO BETTER ENGAGE SCRIPTURE
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Foundation Verse

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."



FRAME Questions:

What are important questions to ask and answer when reading the bible?
How does knowing the context help me better understand the passage?
How do I apply the meaning of this passage to my life today?



Brainstorm

This Frame topic will teach you about good questions to ask and answer when reading the Bible. As a starting point, why don't you and your friend take a few minutes and come up with a list of questions that you think might be good to answer or use when trying to unpack the meaning of a given passage of Scripture. Take a few minutes now and see how big of a list you can create!



WHAT DOES CONTEXT MEAN IN THE BIBLE?

The word context comes from the Latin context, meaning "to weave together." Therefore, words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and larger works, such as chapters and books, can be part of a whole just as a fabric is composed of individual threads woven together.

Point 1

Understanding the context is an important aspect of understanding the meaning of Scripture and taking our pre-conceived ideas out of the interpretation. By context, we mean:

1. What is the discourse, the words, and sentences surrounding the passage? What was said or talked about immediately before and after the passage you are studying?
2. We also want to examine the passage's conditions or events. Where did this take place? What major or minor events are happening? What is the physical, emotional, cultural, or spiritual environment?

CONTEXT CHANGES EVERYTHING!

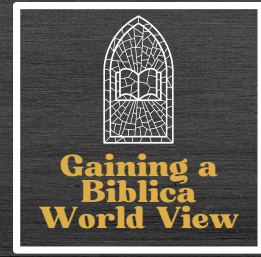
Questions #1

Read John 14:1-14

Where was Jesus and his audience? What was he talking about just before this passage and perhaps right after? How does the CONTEXT help give you understanding into what this passage is about.



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Context

Let's remember some of the Context within John 14. You discovered that this scene takes place during the Last Supper. Judas is going to betray Jesus, and Jesus speaks about his death, and he even predicts that Peter will deny him three times. So it makes sense that John 14 starts with, "*Let not your hearts be troubled*" because they had a lot of natural things to be troubled about.

Keep an Open Mind



When you try to discover the Bible and the true meaning of a passage, it's important to consider the attitude with which you are approaching the Bible. You are more likely to find the truth, joy & power that God's word can offer, if you approach the Bible with an open mind and without preconceived notions. You might discover that the Bible confronts your beliefs about life, relationships, and more. But if you approach the bible looking for it to affirm your already-held personal beliefs, you will miss out quite a bit.

Further Resource:
Discovery Bible App



Point 2

Now that you have studied the **Context**, next Review these 4 questions to help you learn from and gain an understanding of Scripture. After looking at the Context use these 4 questions to dig a little deeper:

1. What does this passage tell me about God? What does it reveal about God?
2. What does this passage tell me about people (or maybe even myself)? Do you see a pattern of thinking or behaving that might be common in people?
3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it? How well am I living and doing according to what I just read? What changes do I need to make?
4. Who am I going to tell?

Question #2

Look back at John 14:1-14 and go through the 4 questions together.

Activity:

Choose another passage to read with a friend and try applying these questions to a new passage. Write your notes and ideas in your journal.