SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message…

Studying Scripture
Phil Harwood
November 15, 2026



- **Context matters in relationships as without it, there is lots of room for misunderstandings.**

- **In the Bible, without context, we can miss what a passage meant for the writer, the original reader, and what it might mean for us today.**

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NLT) For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Example: Luke 22:31-38

- **A little study of Scripture goes a long way to helping us understand what we are reading in Luke 22.**

- **When we study Scripture, we can understand the character of God, the person of Jesus, and then, what does this mean for us as followers of Jesus.**

- **The Bible is not one book, but a library of books made up of different literary genres. Understanding those is essential to knowing how to read them.**

Big Idea: Study is the patient application of our mind & heart to the process of learning what the text says, what it meant to the original audience, and what it all means for us today.

There are tools you can access to help you in your journey:

- Translations (NIV; NLT; Interlinear)
- Concordance
- Study tools (synoptic gospel tool)
- Commentaries

Study methods help.

Example of COMA: Context; Observation; Meaning; and Application

- **Be patient and don't create artificial pressure to take away some life-changing insight from each and every verse in the Bible.**

"The word of God is a pool in which a child can wade and an elephant can swim"

Four study tips:

1) Place yourself under gifted, trusted teachers.

2) Build a library.

3) Pick an area of study in your season.

4) Don't go it alone.

(5) Do not rely on AI tools)

2 Timothy 3:10-17

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used today is the New Living Translation (NLT).

Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Studying Scripture
#8 of 9 - November 8, 2026

1) Read Hebrews 4:12-13. What is the context for this passage? What comes before it and what comes after?

2) What resonated with you about the message? Where there points that specifically stood out to you as you listened?

3) What has been your experience with studying Scripture? Has it been boring? Easy? Rich? Confusing?

4) **Watch Session 3 - Studying Scripture (Practicing The Way -Scripture Course)** https://launch.practicingtheway.org/experiences/scripture

5) What word comes to mind as you think about studying Scripture? Why did you choose that word?

6) What is an example of someone in your life who has been positively formed through the study of Scripture? What was it about their life that you would want to follow as an example?

7) How does community help us study Scripture in a way that shapes how we live instead of simply being an intellectual or academic exercise?

8) What is one step towards growing in your study of Scripture that you can take in the next month? How can community help?

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