

## Questioning the Bible Week 7

### How to Study the Bible Part 1

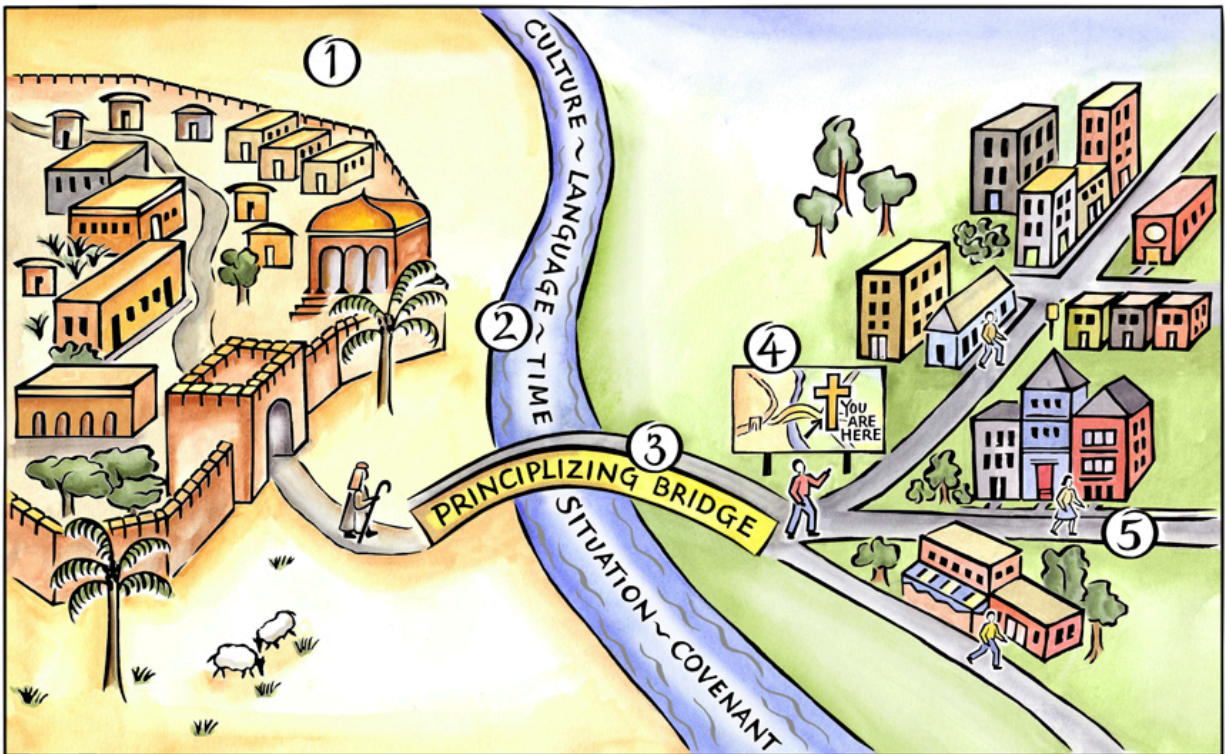
- 1. Getting Started:** Ask each group member: What are one or two things you have learned so far in this series that has strengthened your confidence in the Bible as God's word?
- Ask if anyone has learned last week's memory verse (Psalm 119:11). Challenge each other to learn this week's verse (James 1:22)
- 3. A simple approach to studying the Bible:** Practice using the **Discovery Bible Method** (from *What Jesus Started* by Steve Addison) to study Acts 14:8-18 (from this week's reading plan). Anyone can do this. Have the person with the most letters in their full first and last name lead this part of the discussion.

Have someone read Acts 14:8-18. Then discuss these questions:

1. Without looking at the text, retell the passage in your own words.
  2. What do you like about this story?
  3. What does this passage teach us about God?
  4. What does it teach us about people?
  5. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?
  6. What do you need to do this week to obey what you've learned?
  7. Who could you share this story with?
  8. Pray for each other.
- 4.** After you have studied Acts 14:8-18, discuss this approach to studying the Bible. What do you like about this approach? How would you improve or adapt this approach?

## The Interpretive Bridge Approach

(from *Grasping God's Word* by Duvall & Hays)



5. What resources have you found helpful in learning about the background or historical context of a Biblical book or passage?
6. What kinds of baggage or presuppositions might we bring to the Bible? How can these be dangerous? Which of these have you struggled with?
7. Entire cult movements have been born from taking one verse out of context. But we can do the same in more subtle ways. Read Philippians 4:13. This well-known verse is popular on Christian apparel and decorations. Before reading the surrounding context, what meaning or application do you find in this passage?
8. Now read the verse in its broader context (Philippians 4:10-19). Using the study notes or introduction in your Bible, find out who is writing this passage. What were his circumstances? What broader point is he making?
9. How does understanding the setting and context influence how you understand verse 13? How is that different from your original interpretation?
10. Finish your time praying for each other and your Bible reading (and applying) this week.