



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

APRIL 29 - MAY 3 | DISCOVER THE WORD.ORG

You have to admit that there are a lot of things that contribute to making the Bible a difficult book to read. Yet “study the Bible” is what our group invites you to do with us each week on *Discover the Word*. For this series, we’ve invited long-time *Discover the Word* group member Alice Mathews back to the table to remind us of some of the key principles we’ve used over the years to help us understand the Scriptures.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Imagine you’re having a conversation with a friend from another country about American history. They speak some English, but it’s their second language. And suppose that they’ve heard about one of the United States’ great leaders Abraham Lincoln and his famous speech “The Gettysburg Address.” What background information would you need to give them? How would you help them understand the first line of the speech, “Four score and seven years ago . . .”
- Alice quotes former *Discover the Word* group member Haddon Robinson as saying, “It’s when we’re applying Scripture that error is most likely to creep in.” If you would like to read this interview with Haddon published in *Christianity Today* called “The Heresy of Application,” you can find it at www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1997/fall/714020.html.
- Imagine three possible situations in which you could say, “I’m not going home.” How does the context in which those words are used give meaning to that statement? Explain why “context is king” is such an important phrase to keep in mind when reading and studying the Bible.
- Have you ever received someone else’s mail in your mailbox? Sure; we all have. But have you actually opened that mail before realizing it wasn’t for you? Today’s *Discover the Word* discussion reminds us that the Bible is that way . . . it’s someone else’s mail. So when we read passages like Psalm 119:11, how can we know that it’s timely for today’s world? For the culture we live in?



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CHALLENGE

Have you ever read through the entire Bible? The *Our Daily Bread* devotional has a plan to help you read through the Bible in a year. Each day's article has a feature called "Bible in a Year." Go online to www.odb.org to sign up to receive a printed copy or an email of *Our Daily Bread*, and then commit to reading through the entire Bible in the next 12 months.



COMMIT TO MEMORY

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right".
(2 Timothy 3:16 NLT)



PRAYER

Father, I desire to know You better, and the Scriptures reveal so much about You. Help me as I study this week to understand the context of passages I read. Help me to know what Your Spirit is saying to me through the Scriptures, and help me know how to read and then live out Your Word in such a way that others see Jesus in me. Amen.