



MISREADING SCRIPTURE

WITH **Western Eyes**

SUMMARY | Have you ever been misunderstood? Whether it's a text message or face-to-face conversation, it isn't uncommon to mistake someone's intentions based on our own perceptions or emotions. The same thing can happen when we read the Bible. We bring our modern-day culture, experiences, and language into what we read to help us find meaning.

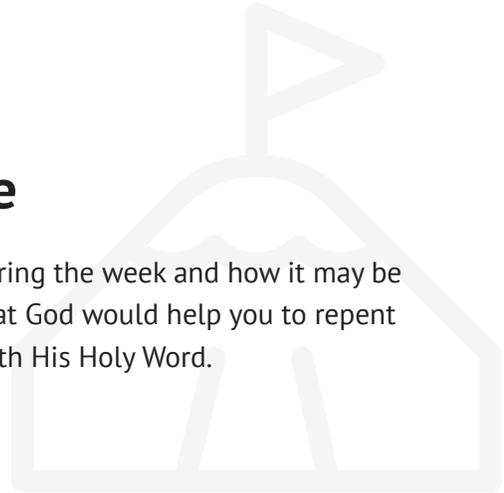
Join the Discover the Word team and special guests Randy Richards and Brandon O'Brien as we explore how different elements of Western culture can lead us to misread and misunderstand the meaning of Scripture.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever said something and been misunderstood? Why do we sometimes misunderstand each other? In what ways was Jesus misunderstood during His time on earth?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17. What were your perceptions of the Bible from childhood? In what ways has culture changed your views of the Bible or blinded you to understanding particular portions of Scripture?
3. Take a moment to read the old fable about The Little Red Hen. Now read 2 Thessalonians 3:10. What do they have in common? What do this verse and short story teach us about God-honoring values like charity and generosity?
4. When you hear the words honor and shame, what comes to mind? In Western culture, we often associate these terms with right and wrong or guilt and innocence. In Eastern cultures, however, these refer to an external display. Read the exchange between Nicodemus and Jesus (John 3:1–21) and think about how honor and shame may be at work.

Challenge

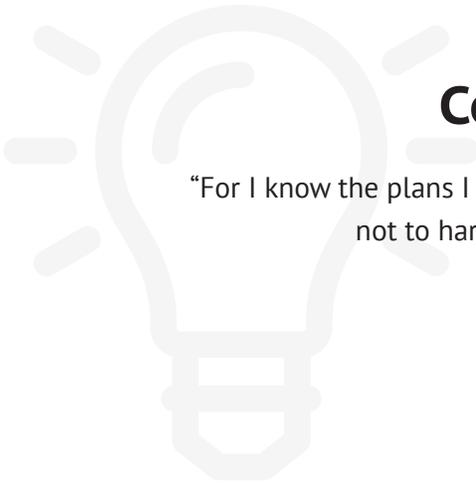
Consider how you interact with popular culture during the week and how it may be influencing you and your walk with Christ. Pray that God would help you to repent of sinful thinking and reconnect with His Holy Word.



Commit To Memory

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



Prayer

Father, I know I have been influenced by the culture around me—sometimes for good and sometimes for bad. I also know that I have allowed my culture to influence my choices, decisions, and how I read Your Word. Please help me to better understand the culture in which Your Word was written and what it is You want me to learn so that I can better represent You in the world around me. Amen.

