

2nd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 16



Help Me Understand This

In order for you to truly understand how to apply these lessons to your life, we will examine the importance of interpretation (what does the Bible **mean**), the role of observation (what does the Bible **say**) and application (How should I **apply** Bible truth to my life).

Do you believe that God is perfect and has never made a mistake? I'm sure that you have heard pastors and parents tell you that God never makes mistakes and they are **right!**



What you may not understand is that the Bible is great evidence of God's perfection. Within its **context**, **the Bible never contradicts itself**. It never says one thing one place and then contradicts itself somewhere else (not when you read it in **context**). That is why we can trust the Bible as God's holy, inerrant (**incapable of being wrong**) Word.

The Bible is not like people. We say one thing one minute and end up contradicting ourselves the next. We say things we don't mean and mean things we don't say. But God doesn't!

Read 1 Timothy Chapter 4



Sometimes, the Bible briefly mentions a certain topic in one place and then provides more information about that topic somewhere else. Therefore, the only way to know and understand God's thoughts about a topic or subject is to view what the **entire** Word of God says. **Context** is the key. To know God's thoughts about a principle or matter, we must consider one verse in the context of the entire Bible.

When you read the Bible, one of the most dangerous things is taking a verse out of **context**.

Context: the parts of something written or spoken that are near a certain word or group of words and that help to explain its meaning.

To take a verse out of context means to make a conclusion about the meaning of a particular verse or passage in Scripture without considering surrounding verses or other passages in the Bible.

For example, John 8:32 “The truth will set you free.” Non-Christians as well as Christians take this popular verse out of context by failing to consider the complete idea of John 8:31-32. It says, ³¹ *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.* ³² *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

In other words, we will know the truth and it will set us free from our bondage to sin **only** if we are believers and **only** if we continue in God’s Word (hold to my teaching).

Check It Out

God chose not to deal with most Bible topics all in one place. We must find out what the entire Bible says about a certain topic before reaching a conclusion about God’s will. A cross-reference (check it out) is a verse that deals with the same topic you are reading or studying. Cross-referencing is valuable because it provides information about a topic that the verse you are reading/studying may not provide. Comparing Scripture with Scripture provides us with a **safety net for truth**.



If you do not cross-reference, you risk the danger of interpreting scripture in the wrong way. For example, look at Philippians 2:12b which says “...**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling**.”

If you make a decision about this verse, you would have to say that a person is saved by the things they do. But when we read other Bible verses that deal with the topic of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9 as an example), you will discover the clear teaching that salvation is by grace through faith. So the verse in Philippians 2:12 is simply describing the Christian life as we live out the gift of salvation God has already given us. Do you understand this so far?

How Do You Do This?

Step 1.

The way you cross-reference any topic in the Bible is by looking up that topic in a concordance or a topical Bible (like Nave’s). An exhaustive concordance lists every word in the Bible and where each word can be found. Some topics you may wish to cross-reference include grace, faith, prayer, baptism, temptation, etc. (You can ask your mentor to help you with this). You can find many free online versions and many great tools. Here is just one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/strongs-exhaustive-concordance/>



Step 2.

After finding all the verses for a particular topic, look up each verse to find important information. Remember to study each verse in its proper context. That may require studying the context of the verse along with the chapter or even the whole book that the verse(s) are in.

Step 3.

When you discover a verse that particularly supports a verse you are studying, you may want to write that reference in the margin of your Bible. Many study Bibles are designed specifically with wide margins so you can write your notes in them. Consider using a Bible study journal (a plain notebook will do) to record what you discovered about a topic.

Step 4.

The most important step is application. What should I do with the information I know? We will talk more about this in the next few lessons.

Looks like a Conflict to Me

Because God is perfect and His Word is true, Scripture cannot contradict itself (be on opposite sides about a subject or matter). At times, you may discover verses in the Bible that **seem** to contradict. For example:

Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

James 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

These scriptures sound like they contradict one another, however, they actually complement one another. In Romans, Paul is saying that works do not justify or save us, and **faith** in Jesus Christ is the only thing that can. The verse in James, in the context of the rest of the chapter, is saying that works are a **result** of our justification. Because we are saved and submitted to Christ, good works should be **automatic**, not done to **earn** salvation.



Memory Verses

Romans 15:4

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Proverbs 30:5

“Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”

Handling God’s Word responsibly means studying the context of verses and understanding the historical and cultural meaning of a passage.

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ag2DWOmRNJ4>

Ambassadors

Year 2 Lesson 16 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/qMYzUMTUUzGmDMre8>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links that were sent in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. How is the Bible evidence of God's perfection?
2. True/False. The Bible contains a few contradictions that scholars have agreed to overlook.
3. What is context?
4. In your own words, explain what is meant by "taking a verse out of context."
5. What is a cross-reference?
6. In your own words, explain Philippians 2:12b (second half of verse)
7. True/False. Scripture cannot contradict itself.
8. How should we respond when we discover verses that seem to conflict or contradict?

9. Match each reference from 1 Timothy 4 with its cross reference. You will need to look up all of the verses in the 2nd column, make a note about what they say, then match it with the verse in the 1st column.

- a. ____ 1. I Timothy 4:1
- b. ____ 2. I Timothy 4:3
- c. ____ 3. I Timothy 4:4
- d. ____ 4. I Timothy 4:7
- e. ____ 5. I Timothy 4:8
- f. ____ 6. I Timothy 4:14
- g. ____ 7. I Timothy 4:15

- A. 2 Timothy 1:6
- B. I Timothy 1:4
- C. Joshua 1:8
- D. 1 Corinthians 7:28
- E. Genesis 1:31
- F. I Timothy 6:6
- G. 2 Timothy 4:4