

Why Do People Make Mistakes Interpreting the Bible?

5 Principles for Effective Bible Study

If the Bible is God's Word, why is it so often misunderstood? The Bible can feel foreign and complex to modern readers. The Bible's collection of writings spans multiple languages, many ancient cultures, and thousands of years of history. How then can we read the Bible well and help explain its beautiful message in a way people can understand? In this workshop, we will unpack five essential principles for reading and interpreting the Bible faithfully.

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I. Introduction

II. Principle 1: (Literary) Genre

A. Big picture

1. The Bible is a cross-cultural book
2. Hermeneutics (how we approach the text) matters

B. Individual texts

1. Narrative (examples: Joshua, 1-2 Kings, Gospels, Acts)
2. Poetry (ex: Isaiah, Psalms, Lamentations)
3. Discourse (ex: Romans, Ephesians, Hebrews)

III. Principle 2: Context

A. Historical

B. Literary

IV. Principle 3: Inner-Biblical Connections

(ex: 1 Kings 10 // Deut 17; Rev 21 // Lev 26, Ezek 37)

V. Principle 4: Structure

A. Narrative Space (ex: Gen 1-11 and Gen 12-50; Acts 1:8)

B. Flow of Argument (ex: Romans 1-3, 4-8, 9-11, 12-16)

VI. Principle 5: Repetition

(ex: "in Him" Eph 1; "so you/they will know that I am the LORD" Lev/Ezek)

Further Learning:

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/paradigm/>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>

<https://www.stepbible.org/>