

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

How to Know the Bible

LESSON 2

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

Memory Verse

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (LSB)

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

Questions We Will Seek to Answer

- ✓ How do I study my Bible instead of just simply reading it?
- ✓ Why is the Bible sometimes hard to understand, even for Christians?

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

Roadmap

1. Why to Know the Bible
2. How to Know the Bible
3. The Bible Study Process

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

1. Why to Know the Bible



HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

Why Study the Bible?

- ✓ To prepare onself for service (1 Peter 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:6)
- ✓ To sanctify our lives (John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:14–19)
- ✓ It is God's will that we dwell on the Word and obey it (Joshua 1:8; Colossians 3:16)
- ✓ Understanding the Scriptures helps Christians know God more deeply (John 5:39; Proverbs 2:1, 5; 1 John 2:14)



HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

2. How to Know the Bible



HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

1. Hear the Bible

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. – Romans 10:17

- ✓ Listening to the Bible isn't cheating!
- ✓ Historically, listening was the primary way believers consumed the Word of God.
- ✓ Hearing the preached Word
- ✓ Listening to the reading of God's Word
- ✓ **Resource**: Audio Bibles on the YouVersion Bible App

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

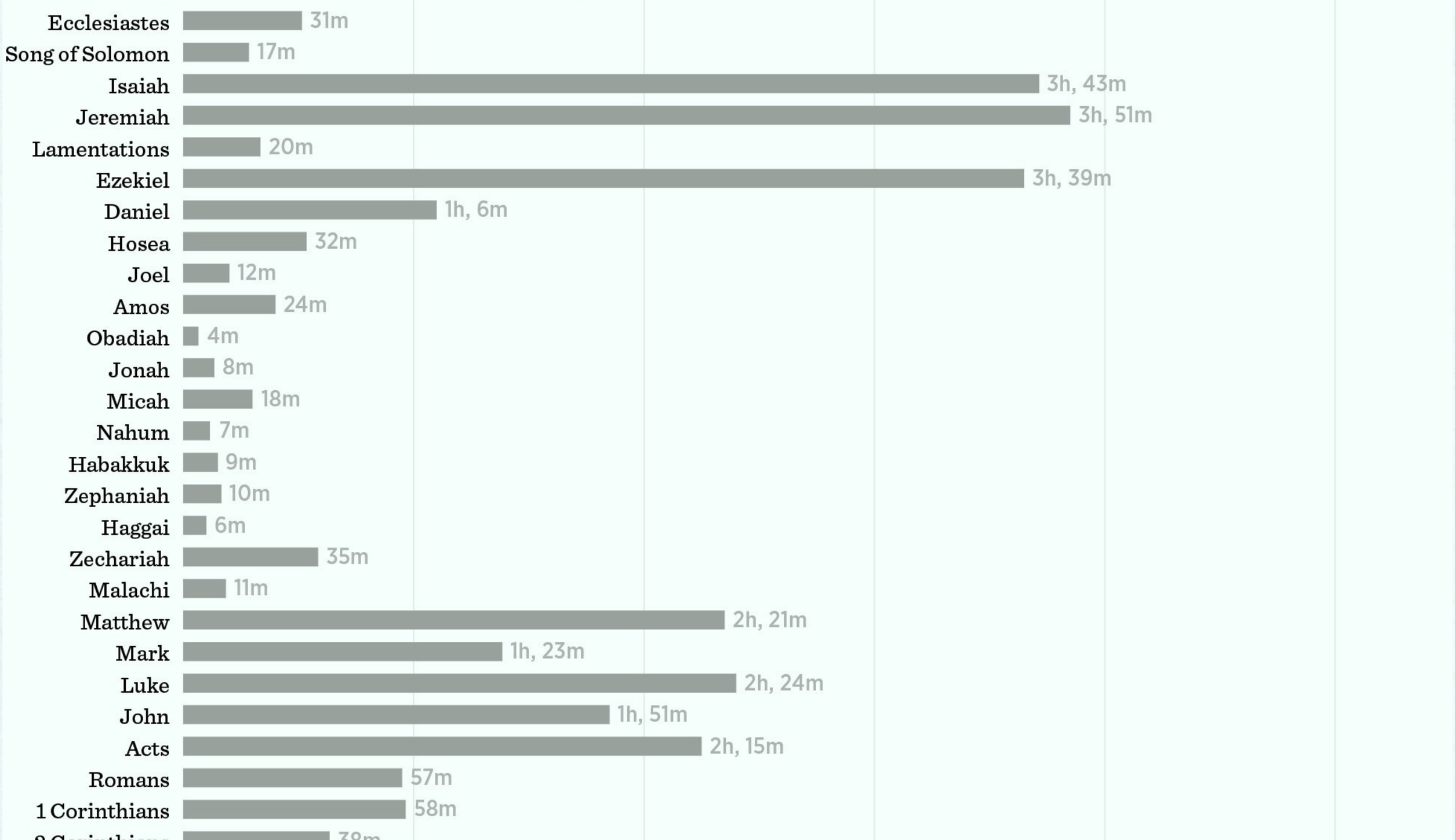
2. Read the Bible

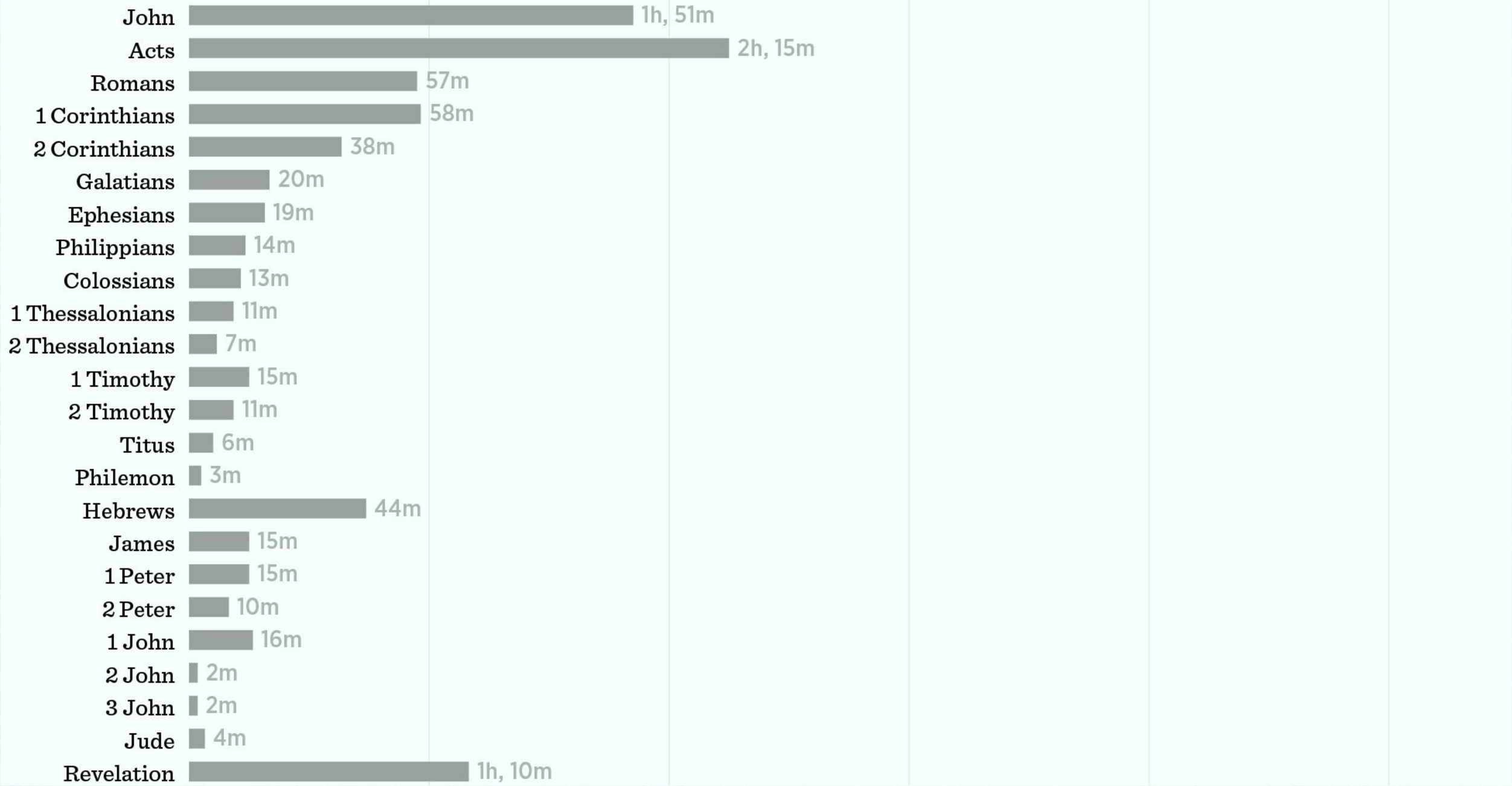
"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it, for the time is near." – Revelation 1:3

- ✓ Read for breadth and familiarity.
- ✓ Make a habit of it.
- ✓ Follow a reading plan.
- ✓ **Resource**: redeemingproductivity.com/bible

How long does it take to read each book of the Bible?




Ecclesiastes 31m
Song of Solomon 17m
Isaiah 3h, 43m
Jeremiah 3h, 51m
Lamentations 20m
Ezekiel 3h, 39m
Daniel 1h, 6m
Hosea 32m
Joel 12m
Amos 24m
Obadiah 4m
Jonah 8m
Micah 18m
Nahum 7m
Habakkuk 9m
Zephaniah 10m
Haggai 6m
Zechariah 35m
Malachi 11m
Matthew 2h, 21m
Mark 1h, 23m
Luke 2h, 24m
John 1h, 51m
Acts 2h, 15m
Romans 57m
1 Corinthians 58m


John 1h, 51m
Acts 2h, 15m
Romans 57m
1 Corinthians 58m
2 Corinthians 38m
Galatians 20m
Ephesians 19m
Philippians 14m
Colossians 13m
1 Thessalonians 11m
2 Thessalonians 7m
1 Timothy 15m
2 Timothy 11m
Titus 6m
Philemon 3m
Hebrews 44m
James 15m
1 Peter 15m
2 Peter 10m
1 John 16m
2 John 2m
3 John 2m
Jude 4m
Revelation 1h, 10m

BIBLE READING




BIBLE STUDY

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

3. Study the Bible

"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so." – Acts 17:11

- ✓ Reading for depth and understanding.
- ✓ **Resources**: Study Bible, BlueLetterBible.com, biblehub.com

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

4. Memorize the Bible

"word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You." – Psalm 119:11

- ✓ Why is memorizing the Bible so important?
- ✓ The more truth you have in your head, the less susceptible you are to lies.
- ✓ Fuel for meditation
- ✓ **Resources**: Navigators Topical Memory System, Bible Memory App / Notecards

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

5. Meditate on the Bible

"But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, And in His law he meditates day and night." – Psalm 1:2

- ✓ What does it mean to meditate on Scripture?
- ✓ Biblical meditation is not emptying your mind, but focussing it on truth.
- ✓ Memorizing = packing your lunch, Meditating = chewing on it
- ✓ **Resource**: *God's Battle Plan for the Mind* by David Saxton

GOD'S BATTLE PLAN FOR THE MIND



The Puritan Practice of Biblical Meditation

DAVID W. SAXTON

Hear THE BIBLE

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. – Romans 10:17

Read THE BIBLE

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Study THE BIBLE

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Memorize THE BIBLE

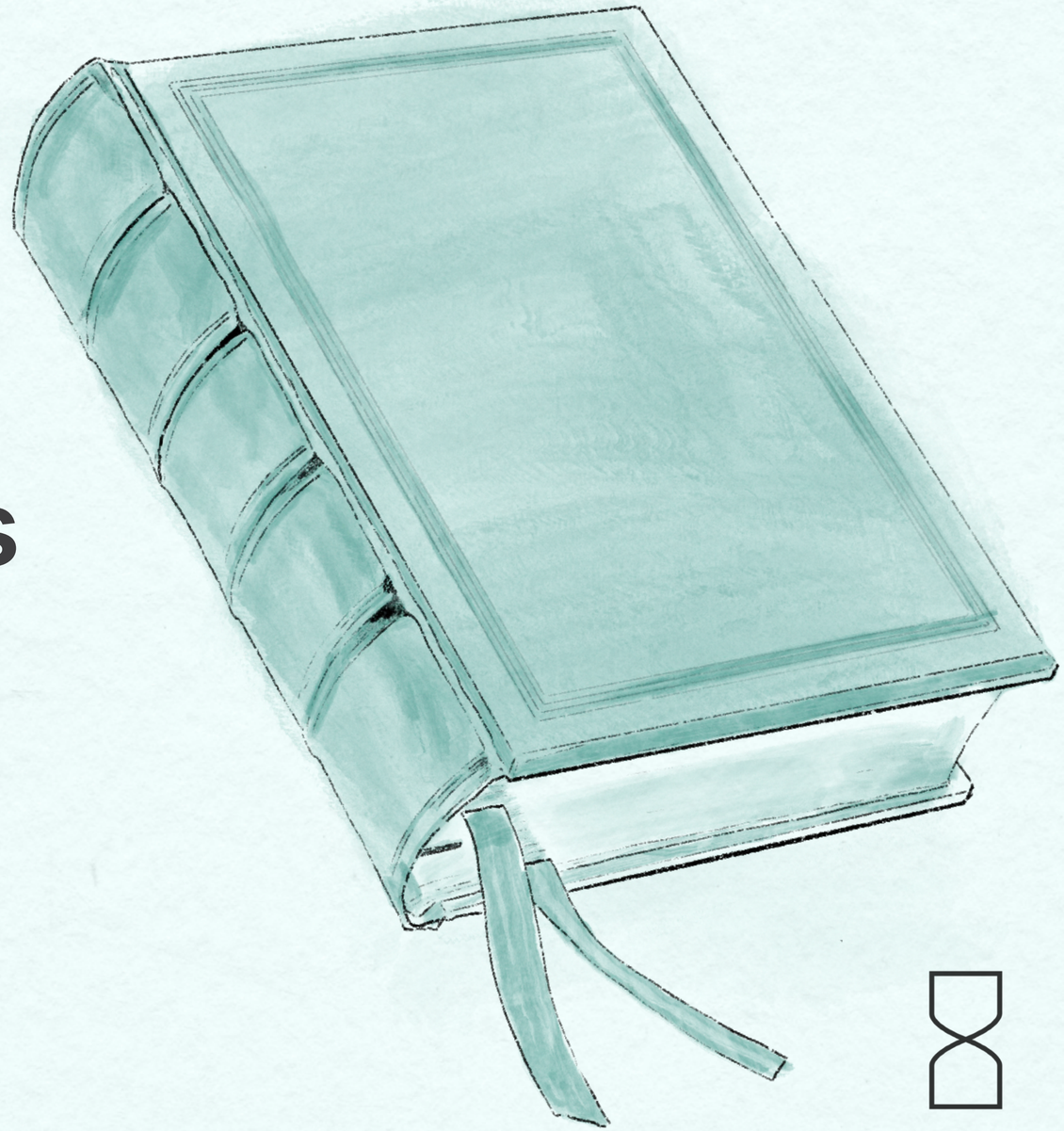
How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me stray from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.
– Psalm 119:9–11

Meditate THE BIBLE

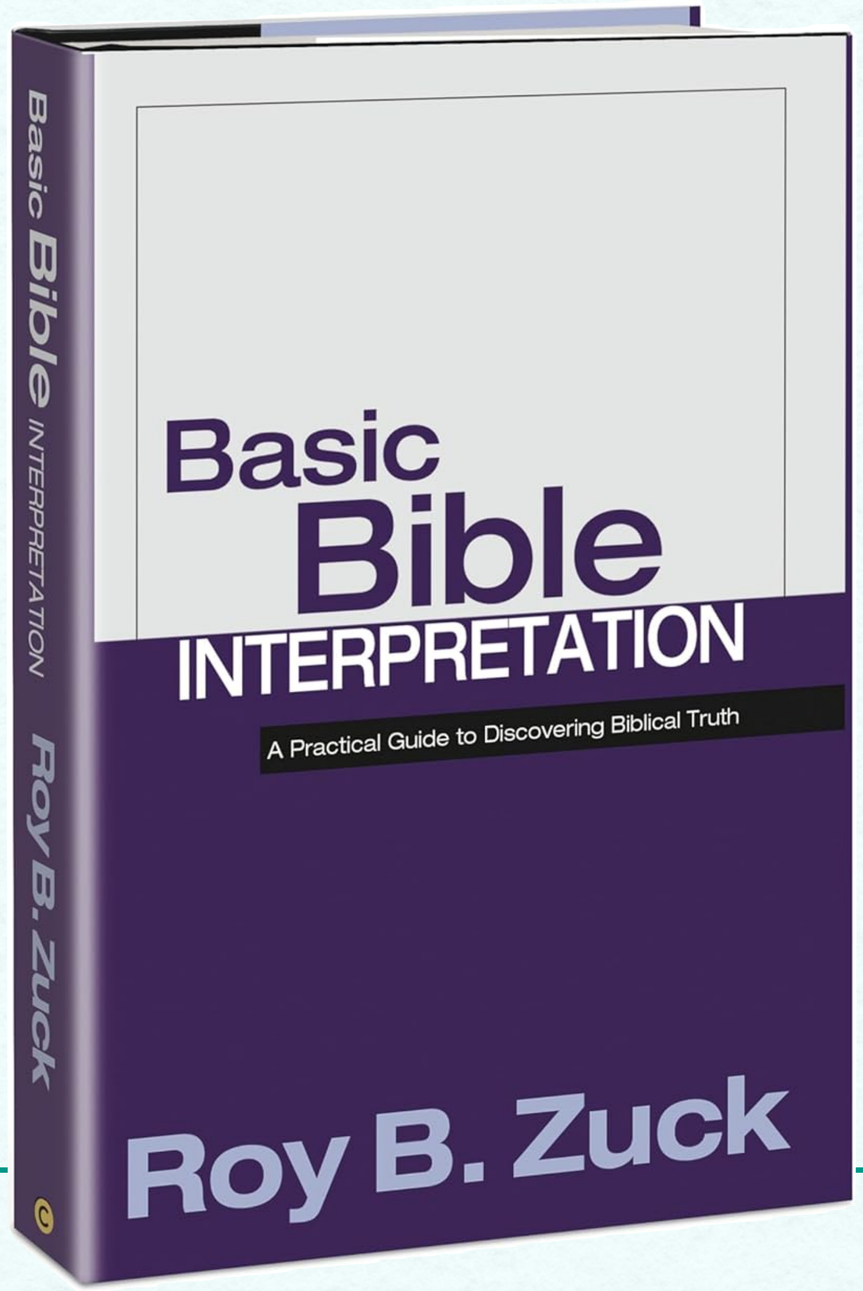
But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, And in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.
– Psalm 1:2–3

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

3. Bible Study Process



“Hermeneutics… is the science and art of interpreting the Bible”



ROY B. ZUCK, *BASIC BIBLE INTERPRETATION*, 19.

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Hermeneutics Crash Course

- ✓ Presuppositions of Biblical Hermeneutics Based on Dual Authorship:
  - ✓ The Unity of Scripture
  - ✓ The Clarity of Scripture
  - ✓ Single Meaning
  - ✓ Normal Human Language



“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

“There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.
2 Peter 3:16 ESV

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Hermeneutics Crash Course

- ✓ The Literal Grammatical Historical Hermeneautic
- ✓ **The Goal**: To understand the original meaning of the original author to the original audience in the original context.
- ✓ Meaning is distinct from significance.
  - ✓ **Meaning** = The unchanging authorial intent we seek to interpret.
  - ✓ **Significance** = The application of that meaning to a specific person, time, situation, or idea.

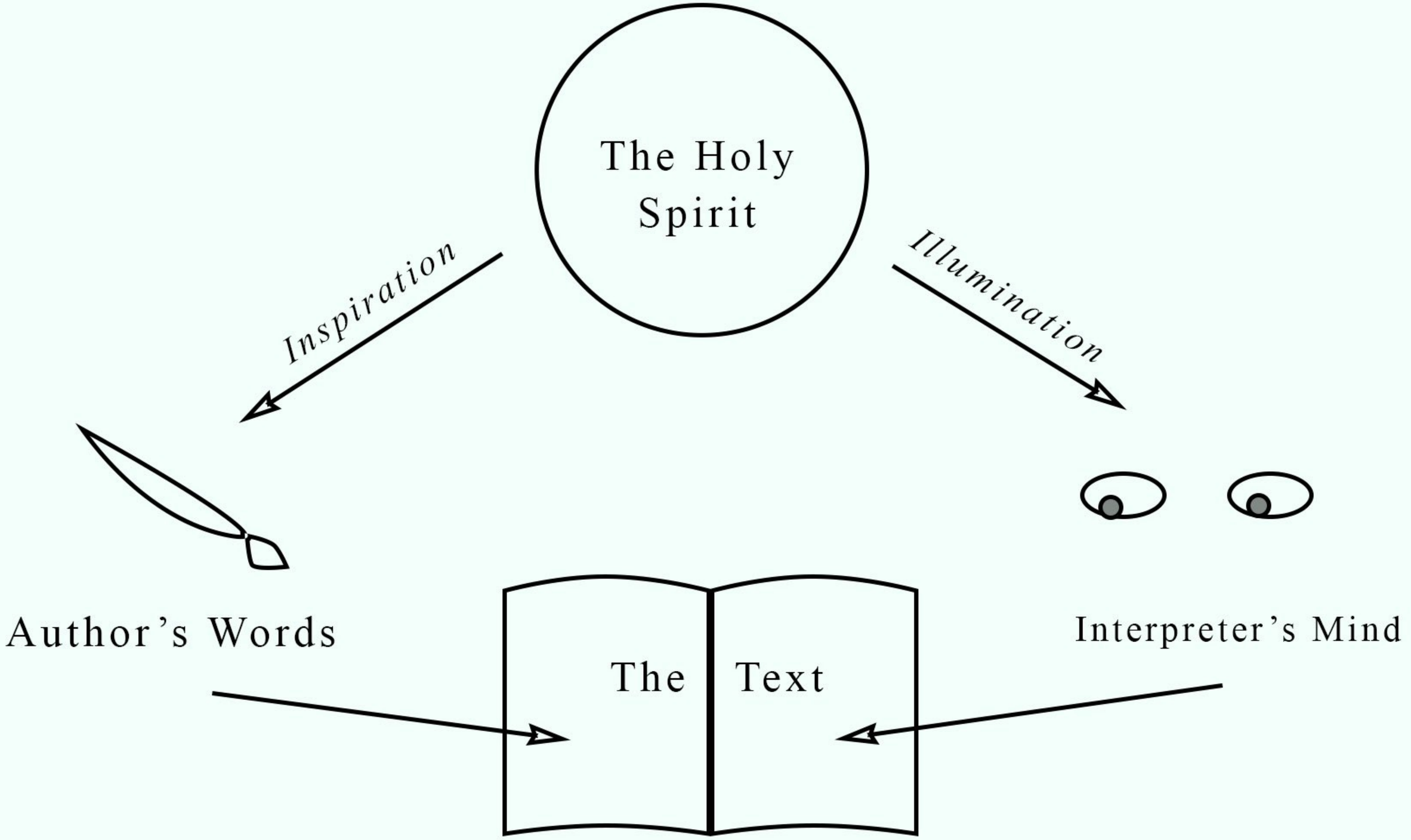
“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

JAMES 1:21

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Step 1: Preparation

- ✓ Humble
- ✓ Pure
- ✓ Prayerful


The Holy Spirit
Inspiration
Illumination
Author's Words
The Text
Interpreter's Mind

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Step 2: Observation

- ✓ What do we mean by observation?
- ✓ Curiosity is key—Ask questions!
- ✓ Things to look for:

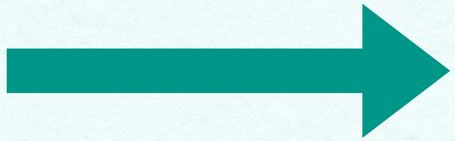


- ✓ Key words
- ✓ Key subjects (people, topics)
- ✓ Commands (particularly verbs)
- ✓ Warnings
- ✓ Repeated words or phrases
- ✓ Comparisons and contrasts
- ✓ Questions and answers
- ✓ Unusual or unexpected things

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Step 3: Interpretation

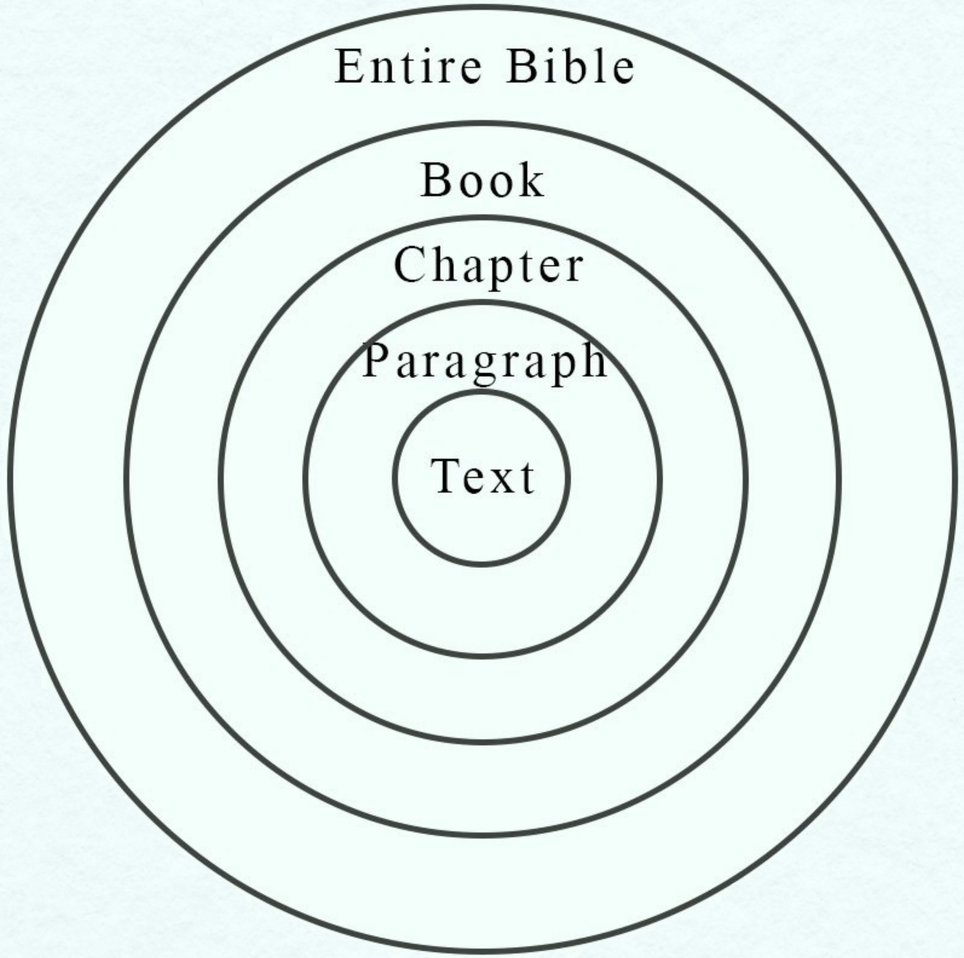
- ✓ Seeking to answer questions
- ✓ Things to look at:
- ✓ Cautions:
  - ✓ Scripture does not contradict
  - ✓ Let the passage speak for itself



- ✓ Context
- ✓ Definitions of words
- ✓ Grammar
- ✓ Other biblical passages
- ✓ Bible study tools

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Circles of Context



THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Step 4: Application

- ✓ Taking the principles gleaned from interpretation and determining how should affect our lives.

- ✓ One interpretation, many applications.

THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

Step 5: Repetition

- ✓ Studying the Bible isn’t a one and done kind of thing.
- ✓ The more you study the Scriptures, the more you will learn and grow.
- ✓ God’s Word is living and active.

