

Reading the Bible On Your Own

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE: A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE

The Bible was written **for** us, but it was not written **to** us—and that distinction is crucial. Too often, people approach Scripture by asking, “What does this mean to me?” While well-intentioned, that mindset can lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The truth is, the Bible was originally written to real people living in specific historical, cultural, and linguistic contexts. To grasp its true meaning, we must first ask: **“What did this mean to them?”**

Only after understanding the original context can we faithfully interpret the message and apply it accurately to our lives today.

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

– 1 CORINTHIANS 2:14

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

– HEBREWS 4:12

Begin your Bible reading time in prayer asking God for understanding, and end with prayer asking God to help you be changed by it—because we need the Spirit of God to help us know, understand, discern, and rightly apply His Word.

the Swedish method:

A SIMPLE WAY TO READ THE BIBLE



Bible Passage:



Observations. What stands out?



Questions. What’s hard to understand?



What’s the **main idea** of this passage?



How does this passage **point to Jesus**?



What is the **key verse** in this passage?



Application. How does this impact your life?



What is something from this passage you could **share with someone**?

BIBLE BREAK DOWN:

66 BOOKS BROKEN INTO TWO SECTIONS: OLD TESTAMENT & NEW TESTAMENT • ORGANIZED BY LITERARY TYPE

OLD TESTAMENT:

THE LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

WISDOM

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

HISTORY

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT:

THE GOSPELS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

GENERAL LETTERS

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

CHURCH HISTORY

Acts

PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

PROPHECY

Revelation

