

“Bible Interpretation”



OPEN IT

- Have you ever misunderstood someone’s words and later realized you interpreted them incorrectly? What happened?
- When you read the Bible, what feels hardest for you—understanding it, applying it, or trusting your interpretation? Why?

READ IT:

- 2 Timothy 2:15
- 2 Peter 3:15-16
- Matthew 4:1-11
- John 5:39-40

EXPLORE IT

- In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul urges Timothy to “correctly handle the word of truth.” What does that imply about the responsibility of Bible readers?
- According to 2 Peter 3:15-16, Scripture can be “hard to understand” and even distorted. Why is humility essential when interpreting the Bible?
- In Matthew 4:1-11, how does Jesus model faithful interpretation in the face of Satan’s misuse of Scripture?
- Satan quotes Psalm 91 out of context, and Jesus responds with Scripture interpreted properly. What does this teach us about letting Scripture interpret Scripture?

- The message emphasized interpreting the Bible theologically—especially as a book that points to Jesus. How does John 5:39-40 reinforce that approach?
- Matthew intentionally parallels Jesus' temptation with Adam and Israel. Why is understanding the larger biblical story important for interpretation?
- The message emphasized understanding historical and literary context (sentence, paragraph, book, whole Bible). Why does ignoring context lead to distorted interpretations?
- The final encouragement was to interpret devotionally—prayerfully, in community, and dependent on the Spirit. Why is community important in understanding Scripture?

DO IT:

- **Practice contextual reading this week.** Instead of isolating a single verse, read the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Ask: What is the author's main point?
- **Look for Jesus intentionally.** As you read any passage, ask: How does this reveal Christ—His character, mission, or fulfillment of God's promises?
- **Interpret in community.** Share a passage you're wrestling with in your group or with a trusted believer. Pray together for clarity and humility.