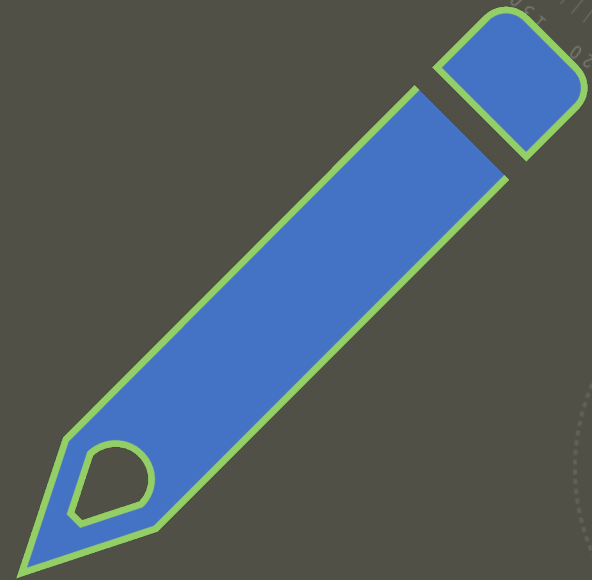


TIPS FOR STUDYING THE WORD



SOME TIPS FOR READING AND STUDYING THE SCRIPTURE

- As the Holy Spirit to Help You Understand
- Find a Scripture to Read
 - Ask the 5 W's
 - Who wrote the scripture?
 - Why did they write it?
 - What is the scripture about?
 - How does this scripture help me in my relationship with God?
 - When I read the scripture am I understanding?
- Before you read the scripture
 - Consider what you already know
 - Consider what you think you know
 - Consider what others have said about the scripture
 - Acknowledge all of that and then read it for yourself
- As you read it don't forget the way you read it is based on your life experiences.

- Two people can read the same scripture and find two different understandings.
- This is because we come from different cultures and experiences.
- If your understanding is based on the scripture, this is okay.

This is called Polyvalence.

Look at this scripture:

LUKE 15:11-16

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDINGS COME FROM THE WAYS WE SEE THE WORLD

Remember the scripture Luke 15:11-16 from the previous slide.

Three different groups of people were asked:
“Why was the prodigal son hungry?”

Based on their cultures they saw a different reason of the prodigal son being hungry...

- **Readers in the United States**

- This story is about how God forgives us when we say we are sorry for immoral personal decisions we've made.
- Where the prodigal went wrong: bad personal choices with his money

- **Readers in St. Petersburg, Russia**

- This story is about restoration to the family and community that God provides us and we need for survival
- Where the prodigal went wrong: leaving family and thinking he could go it alone

- **Readers in Tanzania**

- This story is about the hospitality of God's kingdom (unlike other places where they will let you starve)
- Where he went wrong: leaving the father's house for a country with no honor

DON'T FORGET THERE ARE DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS IN ENGLISH

Original
Language

- Aramaic
- Greek
- Hebrew

Literal from the Original Language

Paraphrase of the Original Language

**Loose
Interpretation**

Interlinear

NASB

NKJV

KJV

RSV

ESV

NRSV

NAB

NET

NIV

CEB

NJB

NLT

CEV

Living Bible

GNT

Message

Message

SAMPLE SCRIPTURE BASED ON DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

EXAMPLE:

PSALM 89:24

- NRSV: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
- CEB: My faithfulness and my loyal love will be with him. He will be strengthened by my name.
- NET: He will experience my faithfulness and loyal love, and by my name he will win victories.
- The Message: I'm with him for good and I'll love him forever;
I've set him on high—he's riding high!

NEW TESTAMENT CULTURE

BACKGROUND



HONOR/SHAME CULTURE

- Rome was an honor and shame culture
 - Honor could be interpreted as – “I am good”
 - Leads to being respected and loved by the group
 - Shame was interpreted as – “I am bad”
 - Leads to ridicule and scorn from not acting like or following the group
- For comparison, the United States is an innocence and guilt culture
 - Innocence – “I did good”
 - Guilty – “I did bad”

HONOR BY GIVING TO THOSE IN NEED

- In Rome
 - 3% of the citizens had wealth
 - 90% of the citizens were extremely poor
- The people with the money and what people needed to survive were called Patrons
- People that needed help were called the clients
- Faith was the belief that the Patron has what the client needed to make it
- Grace was when a patron gave to their client without expectation of payment
 - Truthfully, the clients were too poor to pay the Patron back for what they did for them
- Patrons gained honor for giving freely to their clients and having the ability to give to them
- In turn, clients would pay their Patrons by publicly honoring them, praising them, speaking highly of the grace the Patron extended to them, and telling everyone about their Patron
- That system was imbalanced, and man was not to depend on man...

OUR FAITH IN CHRIST AND THE RESULTING PRAISE FOR HIS GRACE

- Jesus teaches us faith that the Father has what he needs and gives it to him freely
- **John 14:6-7**

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me; you will know ^b my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

- We have faith in Jesus for all we need (salvation) and know that Jesus is giving to us freely by grace
- We couldn't pay Jesus back for all he did for us...
- Jesus died so that we wouldn't have to—He took our place, bearing the weight of our sins and the sins of the whole world on Himself (**John 1:29**).
- His triumph over death has brought us victory: "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by **canceling the record of debt** that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open **shame**, by triumphing over them in him" (**Colossians 2:13–15**).

The background features a dark grey gradient with several faint, light grey circular elements. On the left side, there is a large circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Other circular patterns include solid and dashed lines, some with arrows indicating direction, and concentric circles. The overall aesthetic is technical and geometric.

SAMPLE SCRIPTURE

MARK 10:46-48

MARK 10:46-52

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

The New International Version Mk 10:46–52.

Question	Answer
Who	Bartimaeus
What	Called out Jesus even though he was told to be quiet
When	He heard it was Jesus
Where	Jericho
Why	I want to see
How	Your faith has healed you (Jesus didn't touch him)

A FEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mark 10:52

⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

When we follow Jesus along the road, we discover that Jesus was on his way to the cross. Walking with Jesus includes blessings and suffering. But know that Jesus rose after the suffering. In other words, there is healing and blessings on the other side of the pain and suffering we experience.

In your quiet time, consider this question?

When Jesus gave you sight (blessed you) and you followed him along the road, what did you see/experience?