



UNSCRIPTED

# Book Overview & Bible Study Questions

BIBLE READING GUIDE

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Welcome Note	○————○	03
Book Overview: Introduction	○————○	04
Book Overview: Context (Questions & Prompts)	○————○	05
The Message: Dive Deep (Questions & Prompts)	○————○	07
Application Questions	○————○	09



# HELLO

SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!

My name is Renee, and thank you for downloading the book overview & bible study questions guide. I created this guide with the intention to give you a framework of prompts and questions that will assist you in understanding scripture.

Reading the Bible is not impossible. Yes, it may be written using the language of metaphors and parables, and other styles of writing but it is not impossible to understand.

Why?

Because we have the Holy Spirit, our helper.

The Holy Spirit is the one who inspired the authors of the Bible, and it is Him who will give you revelation & understanding of the word of God. Through His direction, I have developed this guide to help you as you read through scripture; to engage with the word, the Holy Spirit and other helpful resources to ultimately leading you to better understand scripture.

*So, Let's begin - shall we?*



# 01

## BOOK OVERVIEW: INTRODUCTION

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In order to understand a book or chapter in the bible, it is very important to understand the **context of the scripture** such as when was it written, to whom was it written and so forth.

This is key because the writers of the books were placed in a very specific context at the time they were writing and had a specific intention in mind when writing to their audience. This does not mean to say that scripture does not apply to us and our current context - absolutely not!

Scripture is the very word of God and it applies to us all; no matter the time or the location.

Understanding the context helps you understand why the book was written (the purpose), why it was written to a particular group of people i.e. the Corinthians and how it applies today and to us (both believers and non-believers).

It also helps you avoid taking scripture out of context which is brought about by a lack of clear understanding and interpretation of a particular scripture.

# 01

## BOOK OVERVIEW: CONTEXT

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To know and understand the context of the scripture you are reading, ask yourself the following questions:

- Who wrote it/the Author?
- When was it written? i.e., *3500 BC or 150A.D*
- Who was it written to? i.e., *the Church in Ephesus – this is the book of Ephesians*
- Why was it written?

The answer to the above questions can be found at the beginning of each book of the Bible, depending on the Bible. If it is a study Bible, it will have such information.

If not, you can get this information from the scripture itself or check a Bible commentary (for more info on commentaries, turn to page 7).

You can go deeper and look for the:

- Historical context – what was happening when this text was written? Any new laws? Who was the ruler at the time? What was happening with & to the Israelites (the children of God) at the time?
- Literary context – what language was the text written in? Hebrew? Greek?

[You can find this information in the footnotes or in some notes in the verses i.e., on the Bible App, using the TPT version, certain verses have such notes explaining the origin of certain words and verses. Or, you can find it in Bible commentaries or when you Google!].

i.e., there are some words in Paul's epistles that are in Greek.

Any special phrases used? Any discrepancies with the meaning of certain words in the original context?

- **Cultural context** – what is the author's cultural background? i.e Paul was both a Jew and a Roman. How did being both a Jew and a Gentile impact his understanding of God's grace & salvation for all men?
- **Theological context** – what did the author believe about God? Are they Jewish? Gentile? Or both? Or are they a convert?

This will equip you to fully grasp the context of the scripture, which will in turn help you understand the message better.

It will also help you avoid taking scripture out of context when you apply it to a certain situation or use it to explain a certain biblical concept/principle to another person, be it a believer or non-believer.

## 02

## THE MESSAGE: DIVE DEEP

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After taking into account the context of the scripture that you are reading, you are better equipped to understand the message of the scripture.

At this stage, you ought to ask to yourself the following questions:

- What is the main message of this passage?
- What does it mean?
- & what does this passage say about God? His character?

Attributes? And can I see Jesus in this scripture? (This is because the entire Bible, from the Old Testament to the New Testament speaks about Jesus. In the O.T, it is not as direct but Genesis to Malachi, is a foreshadow of the coming of Jesus – even in the simplest of scripture)

The answers to the above questions are at times quite direct.

However, this is not always the case. To get a full understanding of the passage you:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand.

Scripture is God-breathed; it is who God is. Furthermore, the authors of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit to pen down the very words & the essence of God. The only way to understand God's word is to ask the Spirit of God, to reveal the meaning to you.

## 02 THE MESSAGE

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You can also use the following tools to understand scripture:

- Cross references – cross references are other places in scripture that mention similar themes, words or ideas found in the passage you are studying.
- Other Bible Translations – reading different translations i.e., Amplified Version (AMP), The Message Version (MSG), The New Living Translation (NLT) etc., can help you understand the passage you are reading more clearly.
- Bible Dictionaries/Concordances - for defining words and phrases. Concordances are usually found behind one's Bible or even online, i.e., [Bible Study Tools Concordance](#)
- Commentaries – these are trusted interpretations of the Bible from Bible scholars i.e. [Enduring Word Commentary](#), [Bible Gateway Commentaries](#).

With these tools, you will gain a deep understanding of God's word and you will be able to answer the above questions.

I will also advice you to allow the Holy Spirit to move during this step of your Bible Reading. Don't be too rigid. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you as you read. Be still and quiet so you can hear Him guiding you and as He reveals scripture to you.




*"How does this passage apply to my life as a modern-day believer?"*

The purpose of scripture is to instruct, convict, correct and train the believer in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17), hence, after we read scripture, we must apply it into our daily lives.

Ask yourself these questions after you complete your study:

- What did I learn about God and relating God – what does this portion of scripture say about my relationship with God?
- What have I learnt about human nature? i.e., *the flesh and the Spirit of God are continually in conflict; opposing one another (Galatians 5:17)*
- What have I learnt about myself? And what have I learnt about my own sinfulness?
- What do I need to repent of? What do I need to pray about?
- What does the passage say concerning my relationship with others and how I am to relate with/treat others? What do I need to repent of when it comes to this area?
- How then, can I apply this knowledge into my daily life?

Remembering to take my everyday, ordinary life—my sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering, fixing your attention on God and I'll be changed from the inside out. [Romans 12:1-2 MSG]



*"If you are serious about  
changing your life, you are going  
to have to get into the Bible:  
read it, study it, memorize it,  
meditate on it and apply it. "*

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**RICK WARREN**

Pastor & Best Selling Author of 'A  
Purpose Driven Life'



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for going through this Bible Reading Guide - you are now on your way to building up the consistency and discipline you need to remain in God's Word.

Remember that you can always refer back to this guide - it is not a one time thing but a continuous effort to study God's Word daily and to gain the most out of it!

You can also print it out so you can have a physical copy of the prompts/questions you need to ask yourself as you study scripture

For more resources, head over to our website and subscribe to receive future freebies and news on bible products from our shop!

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