

the core four

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

Use a Bible commentary, or your study Bible to read about the context of the current scripture(s) you are reading. Find out who the author is, when it was written, and what the verse actually means.

Don't have a study Bible or commentary on hand? Use your favorite search engine and search context of (*insert scripture reference here*), i.e. "Context of Psalm 59:16" and read around until you have some answers to those questions.

WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT GOD?

The more you know about the heart and character of God, the more you will be able to trust the heart and character of God. The best way to learn more about God is to read the scriptures, He is the Ultimate Author or if all.

When you are reading dig in and ask "what does this say about God?" Here is an example: if Ps 59:16 says "*I will sing of your strength and will joyfully proclaim your faithful love in the morning.*" We can see that God is strong and that He is loving.

WHAT IS THE COMMAND TO OBEY & THE CURRENT APPLICATION?

Some scripture(s) we read will have direct commands to obey, others won't be so obvious. Either way, when we become believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to be renewed and transformed in our thinking and in our actions. Those commands and prompts to obedience that lead to sanctification are all interwoven into the scriptures.

Current application of those commands looks like answering "what does it look like to obey that command/calling **now?**"

Ps 59:16 tells us that we should be singing and celebrating how great God is, even in our current daily struggles. He is still good, and we should still praise.

WHAT PIECE OF ENCOURAGEMENT CAN YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE?

We aren't called to keep the truths and encouragements of the scriptures to ourselves. We are called to share them with others around us. After you have gotten a better understanding of the context, the Ultimate Author, and the command you need to obey, take a look at the encouragement in the scripture that you could share with a friend.

Ps 59:16 goes on to say "*For you have been a stronghold for me, a refuge in my day of trouble.*" We know that troubles will come, but just as God has gotten us through them in the past, He will continue to be a safe, strong place of rescue for us.

You don't have to be a theological scholar to be able to study the Bible. Knowing where to start and how to start can be overwhelming. Using the core four questions, you will be able to study scripture in a way that will allow you to teach the Bible to yourself.

Start small. Grab the YouVersion Bible app on your smart device, or sign up to get the verse of the day sent straight to your email. Take that one verse or small passage. and answer the core four. As you become more comfortable with this method, add more verses or passages each day.

Here are some websites you can use along the way

Easy English Bible -
<https://www.easyenglish.bible/>

Bible Study Tools -
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

Bible Hub -
<https://biblehub.com/>