



Part 3: How To Read The Bible

One of the biggest challenges with the Bible is how to approach it. With so many genres, where do you begin? How do you interpret it accurately? And how do you go from simply reading the Bible to experiencing it? In this message, we'll show you the overarching story of scripture and how you can leverage it to experience the Bible for yourself.

Scripture: James 1:22-25 NLT

Bottom Line: Your story finds its greatest meaning in the context of God's story.

Discussion Questions:

- Would you describe yourself as someone who enjoys reading? Do you read literature on a regular basis? What kind(s)?
- Have you been reading your Bible at all over the last week? How has the experience been?
- Is there a translation of the Bible that you prefer? Why does it connect with you?
- Have you ever engaged with the Bible in other formats than reading it? Are there any other tools that have been helpful for you?
- Chris explained that it's important to always approach the biblical text in context. Has there been a time when you've unintentionally used a verse out of context, only to discover it's true context?
- When it comes to the Bible's literary context, the breakdown is: Narrative 43%, Poetry 33%, and Discourse 24%. Do you think that would surprise the average person who isn't familiar with the Bible? Why or why not?
- Read James 1:22-25. Once you decide to read the Bible, what prevents you from making the changes you need to make? What is at the heart of that?
- One tool Chris shared for understanding the context of the Bible is a five-act overarching storyline? Can you remember what the five acts are? Which one do you know the least about? Which one do you find connect with you best?
- Your story finds its greatest meaning in the context of God's story. Are there particular stories or verses in the Bible that have brought real meaning to your life as you live them out?



Moving Forward:

- This week, pick a passage of scripture and as you read as yourself these questions:
 - What am I reading?
 - Where in the story am I?
 - What is the Holy Spirit asked me to do or change?