

# Beyond the Message | History is His Story | Week 2

## How to Read His Story

Most of us don't avoid the Bible because we don't care. We avoid it because we don't know what to do with it. So we skim and try to jump into an area where we can understand what's going on. Or we read it as a story that has little to do with us—or we read it through the lens that every verse has EVERYTHING to do with us.

Essentially, we guess.

But Scripture isn't random, and when you know how to approach it, it becomes easier to gain a full understanding. Scripture is God's story, pointing to Jesus and shaping you to become more like Him over time.

### First Step: Observation | What does it say?

Before asking what it means for you as you read a verse, ask what it actually says.

#### Ask:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is it written to or for?
- What words repeat?
- What stands out?
- What is happening at that point in biblical history?

#### Practice Tip: Read Philippians 4:13

Read the passage twice. Write down 2–3 things you notice, and then answer the questions above.

### Second Base: Interpretation | What did it mean then?

This is where context matters. The Bible cannot mean what it never meant.

Before applying it to your life, understand:

- What was the author's ORIGINAL intent? This is where the information above matters. Who is the author talking to, and why was this written?
- This keeps us from twisting the verse into something the original author was never trying to say. We can't apply a direction directly to our lives or our culture if we aren't first understanding the full context of the verse itself.

#### Practical Help:

- Use Bible Gateway to read surrounding verses.
- Use a study Bible that explains the historical context of the verses.

Even reading the paragraph before and after can change everything, helping you pick up on context clues and gain a fuller understanding.

## Third Base: Theology | What is always true?

Now zoom out. Before asking what you should do, ask what this reveals about God. Remember, it's His story.

### Ask:

- What does this show me about God's character? (Remember, God's character never changes.)
- What does this show me about people?

### Keep it simple:

- God is \_\_\_\_\_
- People are \_\_\_\_\_

## Home Run: Application | What do I do with this?

In light of what you've learned, how does this shift your view and understanding of God? With that knowledge, how does it change the way you live as a disciple of Jesus?

Remember, our goal is to become more like Jesus. It's not a self-help manual—it's a "how to walk like Jesus" manual.

### Ask:

- What is one action I need to take?
- What mindset needs to shift?

## Putting It Into Practice

**Read:** Philippians 4:13

Then walk the bases:

- **Observation:** What stands out?
- **Interpretation:** What was Paul saying to the Philippians?
- **Theology:** What does this show about God and growth?
- **Application:** What needs to change in me today?