

He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation

Study Guide

LESSON
SEVEN

APPLYING SCRIPTURE



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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON AND STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video lesson. If you do not have access to the video, the study guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the lesson and study guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule viewing** — In the Notes section of the study guide, the lesson has been divided into sections that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the study guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each section and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
 - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
 - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
 - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:20)

Application:

Appropriately connecting the original meaning of a biblical document to contemporary audiences in ways that impact their concepts, behaviors and emotions.

Original Meaning:

The concepts, behaviors and emotions that the divine and human writers jointly intended the document to communicate to its first audience

Proper application must be faithful to the original meaning and also take into account modern times, cultures and individuals.

II. Necessity (5:27)

To benefit properly from Scripture, we have to be impacted by it; our concepts, behaviors and emotions have to be changed.

Paul applied Old Testament stories to the New Testament church by connecting the two audiences and by considering developments that had taken place.

III. Connections (11:29)

The connections between ancient and modern audiences make biblical texts relevant for modern people.

A. God (11:54)

The original and modern audiences both have the same God.

God is immutable, meaning he doesn't change.

1. Eternal Counsel (15:30)

God's eternal counsel, or ultimate plan for history, is immutable.

God knows everything and directs history toward the ends for which he created it.

2. Character (17:23)

God's character, his essence, persons and attributes, never change.

God's immutable character means there will always be significant connections between the original meaning and modern application of Scripture.

3. Covenant Promises (18:48)

God only promises when he takes a vow, makes a covenant, or swears an oath.

Where God hasn't made a promise, his words are best understood as threats of curse and offers of blessing.

B. World (20:45)

We live in a similar world to the one inhabited by the first audiences of Scripture.

The connections between our world and that of Scripture's first audiences can help us determine modern applications of the Bible.

C. People (23:20)

We're the same kind of people as the original audience of Scripture.

1. Sinful Images (23:55)

God created humanity in his image, but we have all fallen into sin.

All recipients of Scripture, whether ancient or modern, share the same sinful nature.

2. **Religious Divisions (27:46)**

Both the original and modern audiences of Scripture suffer religious divisions.

Readers of Scripture fall into one of three religious groups:

- Unbelievers: People who refuse to submit to God.
- False believers: People who make superficial commitments to God.
- Believers: People who make faithful commitments to God.

3. **Classes (29:36)**

The same classes of people exist for both the original and modern audiences.

Many portions of Scripture are directed toward particular classes.

The connections we share with the classes of people that exist in every age can help guide our application of Scripture.

IV. Developments (31:39)

The developments between original and modern audiences should influence our application.

A. Epochal (32:34)

We need to account for the epochal developments of redemptive history when we apply the Bible to modern life.

The Bible's perspective on world history in three stages:

- Creation: When God first made the world.
- Fall: When humanity first committed sin and was cursed by God.
- Redemption: God redeems us from our sin.

The progressive nature of God's rule over creation has resulted in periodic developments that create discontinuity between epochs.

B. Cultural (37:33)

Many cultural developments distinguish our cultures today from the cultures directly addressed in the Bible.

C. Personal (42:00)

We need to recognize the many differences between modern and ancient people if we hope to apply biblical texts properly.

V. Conclusion (43:24)

3. How is the world in which we live similar to the worlds of the original audiences of Scripture? Give examples.

4. Describe at least three ways that people today are similar to Scripture's original audiences.

5. Name some epochal developments that have occurred over the course of redemptive history. How have these developments made our world different from the world of the Bible?

6. What cultural developments distinguish our culture today from the cultures addressed in the Bible?

7. Describe some personal developments over the course of redemptive history that differentiate people today from the Bible's original audiences.

Application Questions

1. How has your knowledge of the original meaning of a biblical passage impacted your modern application? Give a specific example.
2. What encouragement do you gain from the fact God is immutable?
3. In many ways, our world is significantly different from the world that existed when the Bible was first written. How should these differences affect the way we apply Scripture and minister to people today?
4. As a sinful image of God, should you put confidence in your interpretation and application of Scripture? Explain your answer.
5. What are some specific ways you have reached out to false believers and unbelievers in your sphere of influence? What approaches have been most effective? What approaches have fallen short?
6. What are some practical methods you use that aid you in connecting with the original audiences of the Bible?
7. How would you answer someone who claims that the epochal developments in redemptive history mean that certain parts of the Bible are no longer applicable to us today?
8. Do you find it difficult to interpret and apply the Bible knowing that our cultures are different from the cultures of the original audiences? Explain your answer.
9. How do the basic principles found in the Bible help us bridge the gap between the original audiences and modern audiences?
10. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?