

HOW TO: STUDY THE BIBLE PART 2 — FOLLOW UP

7th March 2021

#tbsundayteaching

CATCH UP

In last weeks session we looked at *what* the Bible is.

You can catch up with this short video “What is the Bible” from the Bible Society

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/>



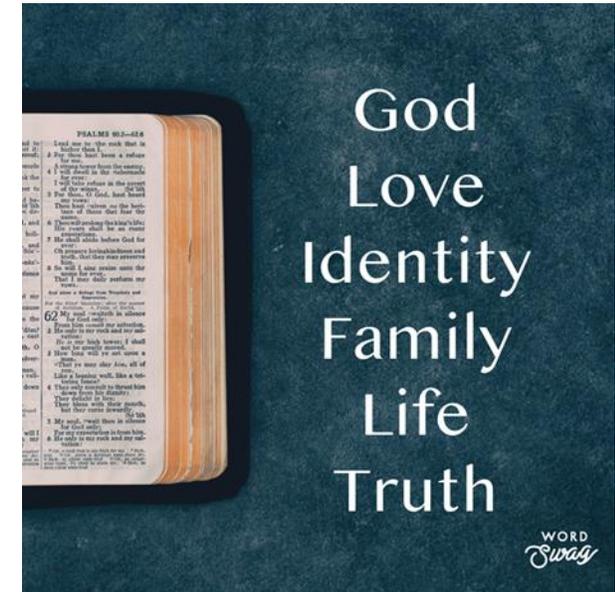
CATCH UP

We also looked at *why* we read the Bible.

The Bible speaks the truth, shows us who God is, and His love for us His children. It also guides us and helps us to live the best life we can.

I came across this interesting article from Premier about how bible reading has increased during the pandemic and why it is important for us. Have a read.

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Bible-reading-is-up-since-the-pandemic-began.-Here-s-why-it-s-good-for-your-mental-health>



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WE THOUGHT ABOUT — BIBLICAL CONTEXT

We started to look at ways to help us with *how* to read and understand it better.

It is important when reading passages from the Bible that we understand the context. E.g

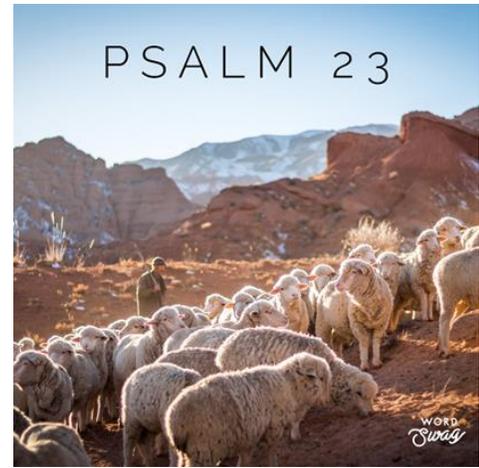
What comes before/after this?

Who is the character/writer/audience?

We looked at Psalm 23 — written by King David to help us illustrate this.

We identified parts of Psalm 23 that clearly relate to who David is and his story and which help us to find deeper meaning to the Psalm





BIBLE CONTEXT — PSALM 23

Shepherd/green pastures/guide/rod and staff (v1-4)

David was a shepherd in his youth (1 Sam 16), he would have known what it meant to care for the sheep and he uses illustrations/words that hold a specific meaning. Shepherds guide their sheep on the right path, they use the staff to fight off wolves/lions.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley/enemies (v4)

David was also a soldier, he fought many battles for Saul and faced many enemies. He was even hunted by Saul and had to run away in fear of his life (1 Sam 17-30).

Anoint my head with oil/prepare a table before me (v5)

David was anointed by Samuel as the next King of Israel (1 Sam 16), he knew the special significance and honour of anointing. He was also a King who often sat at a full banqueting table, a table prepared for a special and honoured guest (2 Sam 9).

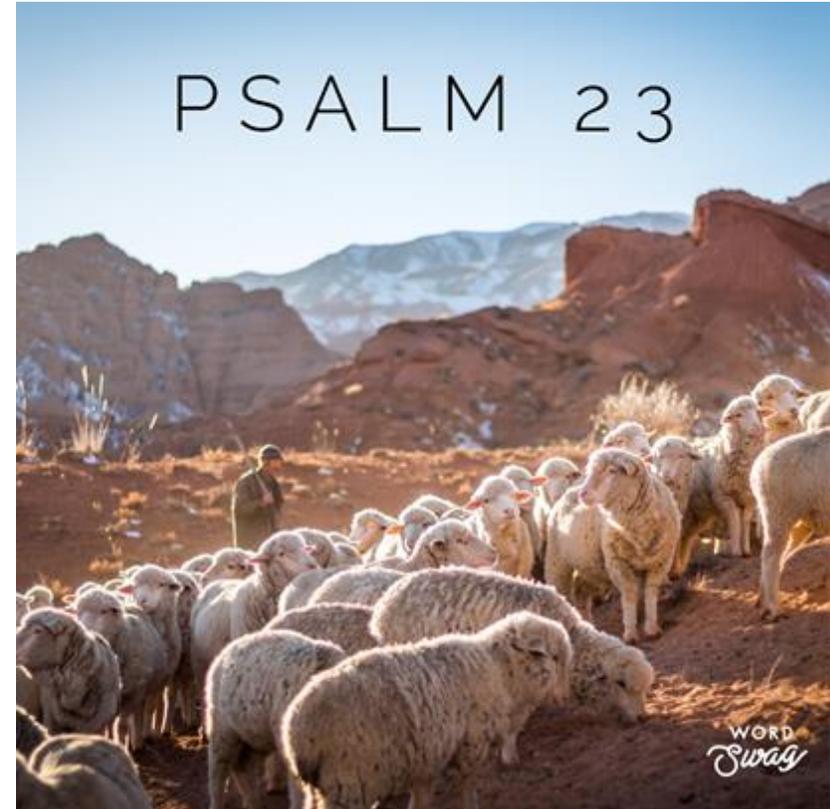
BIBLE CONTEXT – PSALM 23

Knowing the Bible context is important – it helps to unlock the passages and give them further meaning. There is always more to learn.

I learnt recently more about what “green pastures” meant in a middle eastern context. This really helped my understanding of the Psalm and therefore who God is and how I should be living my life.

Watch this video to learn for yourself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMQ2xkVS0xc>



FOLLOW UP

Look at [Psalm 33](#) also written by King David. Look for parts of the Psalm that would hold particular meaning for David as we did for Psalm 23.

I have given you some reference passages from the first book of Samuel to help.

[1 Samuel 16:14-23](#) ; [1 Samuel 17](#) ;
[1 Samuel 18:1-16](#) ; [1 Samuel 24](#)

If you want to go a bit further,
also look at [Psalm 51](#) and [2 Samuel 11-12](#)



MY BIBLE ONION

“Ogres are like Onions” from Shrek
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FtCTW2rVFM>

Just as an onion has layers – so does the way we read the Bible.

There is so much more to reading the Bible than just what is on the surface.



MY BIBLE ONION

When we just read a passage, without looking deeper we are just exploring the outside – the outer layer of the “onion”.

But when we start looking deeper, looking at the biblical context, historical context and life applications – we find so much more – like the inner layers of the “onion”.

Finding these “inner layers” enhances our life and relationship with God – just as an onion enhances a meal!



