



## **Part Two // Scott Landry // October 22, 2023**

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? 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.

*>>> Leaders: Don't feel pressure to get through all the questions, but pick and choose the ones that work best. At the end, there is a meaningful exercise that requires about 20 minutes. If your Circle is going to try it, you'll want to adjust the number of questions you discuss accordingly.*

### **Getting Started:**

1. Would you describe yourself as someone who enjoys reading? Do you read literature on a regular basis? What kind(s)?
2. Have you been reading your Bible at all over the last week? How has that experience been?
3. Is there a translation of the Bible that you prefer? Why does it connect with you?
4. Have you ever engaged with the Bible in other formats than reading it? Are there any other tools that have been helpful for you?

### **Diving In:**

5. Scott explained that it's important to always approach the biblical text in context. Can you recall any of the examples he provided—or come up with other verses on your own—where ignoring the context is problematic?

6. 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?
7. One tool Scott shared for understanding the narrative 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 connects with you best?
8. 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?
9. 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?
10. Tim Keller said, *"To be well versed in the Bible is not just to have a head full of biblical facts or doctrines but to be formed and shaped by the story of the Bible, to have its pattern and plot become the patterns and plot of our own lives."* Where do you see the story of the Bible intersecting with your life? What part of the Bible do you struggle to obey and why?

### **20 Minute Group Exercise:**

John 3:16 is the most famous verse in the Bible. Read John 3:1-21 together. Then watch the 10-minute clip from *"The Chosen"* that takes into account the context of John 3.

Talk about how the context brings this verse to life. Where are they in the story, what act of the story do they look back on, and how does the historical context change how you see the chapter?

### **Moving Forward:**

This week, pick a passage of scripture and as you read ask yourself these questions:

- What am I reading? (Literary Context)
- Where in the story am I? (Narrative Context)
- What is the Holy Spirit asking me to do or change?

### **Resources:**

*"The Chosen"* Clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2XIUK9VgA>