

BIBLE 101 — Week 1

Why Interpretation Matters — And Why You Already Do It

Scripture Focus: 2 Timothy 2:15 · Nehemiah 8:8 · Acts 8:30–31

KEY VOCABULARY — scan this before you watch

Term	What It Means
Hermeneutics	The science and art of _____ the Bible
Exegesis	Drawing meaning _____ of the text (ex = "out of")
Eisegesis	Reading your own ideas _____ the text (eis = "into")
Orthotomounta	Greek: "to cut a _____ line" — handle the Word accurately
Exposition	Explaining and _____ the Bible's meaning to others

I. EVERY READER IS AN INTERPRETER

Every time you open your Bible, you are already _____ it.
 The question isn't whether you interpret — it's whether you do it _____.

A. The Ethiopian Official (Acts 8:30–31)

Philip asked: "Do you _____ what you are reading?"
 The official replied: "How can I, unless someone _____ me?"
 Implication: Understanding doesn't happen _____.

B. Nehemiah 8:8

"They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the _____, so that the people could _____ what was being read."
 — Nehemiah 8:8 (NIV)

II. KEY TERMS

A. Hermeneutics

The science and art of _____ the Bible.

B. Exegesis

Draws meaning _____ of the text — lets the Bible speak for _____.

C. Eisegesis

Reads your own ideas _____ the text — makes the Bible say what _____.

D. Exposition

Explaining and _____ the Bible's meaning to others.
 Exposition flows from good _____, never from _____.

III. EXEGESIS VS. EISEGESIS

EXEGESIS	EISEGESIS
Draws meaning _____ the text	Reads meaning _____ the text
Asks: "What did the author _____?"	Asks: "What does this mean _____?"
Submits to the _____	Subjects the text to _____

II PAUSE & REFLECT

Before moving on: which approach — exegesis or eisegesis — best describes how you’ve read the Bible so far? Why?

IV. THE THREE STEPS OF BIBLE STUDY

Step 1 — Observe: _____

Step 2 — Interpret: _____

Step 3 — Apply: _____

Critical mistake: jumping from Step ____ straight to Step ____, and skipping Step ____.

Key principle: If we interpret _____, we will apply _____.

V. SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT: 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, _____ the word of truth.”

— 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

A. Greek: orthotomounta

ortho = _____ · tomeo = to _____

Combined: to cut a _____ line — handle the Word _____.

B. The Tentmaker Analogy

A bad cut ruins the whole _____. A bad interpretation ruins the whole _____.

VI. THE SIX GAPS

Between us and the original readers, there are six gaps we must _____.

★ Pre-filled gaps are shown in *gray italics* — fill in the remaining three as you listen.

#	Gap	Description
1.	<i>Time</i>	Written thousands of years ago
2.	_____	Different customs, values, social structures

3.	_____	Written in the ancient Near East / Mediterranean
4.	<i>Language</i>	Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek — not English
5.	<i>Literary</i>	Poetry, prophecy, narrative, epistle, apocalyptic
6.	_____	Miracles, angels, divine intervention accepted as normal

The Bible was written **for** us, but not _____ us.

VII. APPLICATION

- Before “What does this mean to me?” ask: “What did this mean to the _____?”
- Bad interpretation → wrong _____ → wrong _____.
- Good interpretation → right _____ → right _____ → transformed _____.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is one example from your own Bible reading where you were interpreting without realizing it?

2. Which of the six gaps do you think most affects your Bible study? Why?

3. How can you practice exegesis instead of eisegesis this week?

NEXT WEEK: *What Does the Bible Actually Mean? — Meaning, Authorial Intent, and Why It Matters*