

BIBLE 101 — Week 7

Seeing the Whole Masterpiece, Not Just One Puzzle Piece

Scripture Focus: John 20:30–31 · Luke 1:1–4 · 1 John 5:13 · Galatians

KEY VOCABULARY — scan this before you watch

Term	What It Means
Book-Level Context	Understanding the _____ of an entire biblical book — not just a single verse or chapter
Authorial Purpose	The reason the author _____ the book in the first place — the main idea for the whole work
Occasion	The specific situation in _____ that triggered the writing — the event that made the author pick up the pen
Literary Structure	The book's outline or road map — how the author deliberately _____ their material to build an argument
Purpose Statement	A passage where the author comes right out and _____ us why they wrote — the master key to the whole book

I. THE PROBLEM: WALKING IN LATE TO THE MOVIE

Reading random verses without the bigger story is like walking into a movie an hour and a half _____.

You see the action and hear dramatic lines, but you have no idea who the _____ are or what the plot is about.

You might even come up with totally _____ ideas about what's going on.

The fix: Zoom out. Stop focusing on a single verse and understand the purpose of the entire _____ it sits in.

II. THE THREE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

Piece 1 — Authorial Purpose

- The reason the author wrote the book — what _____ were they trying to solve?
- What did they want readers to walk away _____ or doing?

Piece 2 — Occasion

- The specific situation in history that _____ the writing
- What was going on in the world or in that specific _____ that needed to be addressed?

Piece 3 — Literary Structure

- The book's _____ or road map — how the author organized their material
- Biblical authors were deliberate _____ who built arguments carefully
- The structure reveals the author's _____ and what they wanted to emphasize

How purpose and occasion relate:

- The occasion is the historical _____ that broke out
- The purpose is what the author decided to _____ about that fire
- Occasion = the _____ (what started it) / Purpose = the goal (what they hoped to achieve)

III. PURPOSE STATEMENTS: THE MASTER KEY

We don't always have to guess the author's purpose — in many cases, they come right out and _____ us.

BOOK	PURPOSE	KEY CLUE
Gospel of John	Evangelistic — building a case to persuade the reader to _____	John selected specific stories ("signs") with one goal: "so that you might _____"
Gospel of Luke	Historical — providing an _____ account to give certainty	Luke tells Theophilus he _____ everything carefully from the start
1 John	Pastoral — giving _____ to those who already believe	Written so believers can _____ for sure they have eternal life

Notice the critical shift:

- The Gospel of John was written so people might _____
- 1 John was written so those who already believe can _____ they have eternal life

Same author, different audience, different _____.

II PAUSE & REFLECT

Look at the three purpose statements above. How would knowing the author's purpose change the way you read a specific chapter in John, Luke, or 1 John?

IV. CASE STUDY: THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

The Occasion (the fire):

False teachers arrived insisting that _____ believers also had to follow the Jewish law to be truly saved.

The Purpose (the response):

A passionate, urgent defense of the true gospel — we are made right with God by _____ and by faith alone.

The Structure (the argument):

CHAPTERS	PAUL DEFENDS ...	THE ARGUMENT
1-2	The _____ of his gospel	It came directly from _____, not from human tradition
3-4	The _____ behind his gospel	Justification by faith, proven from Scripture and reason
5-6	The _____ his gospel produces	True freedom leads to love and life by the Spirit

It's not a random angry letter — it's a unified, passionate, and incredibly _____ defense of the gospel.

V. THE FOUR-STEP PLAYBOOK

Step 1: Before diving into any book, spend 5 minutes reading the _____ in a good study Bible.

Step 2: As you read, be on the lookout for a _____ statement from the author.

Step 3: Try to get a bird's-eye view of the book's _____ — its main sections.

Step 4: Reread a passage you thought you knew, but this time with all this new _____ in your mind.

The big picture: Understanding book-level context transforms your reading from staring at a single puzzle _____ to finally seeing the stunning image on the box lid.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What's the difference between the occasion and the purpose of a biblical book? Why does it matter to know both?

2. Think of a book of the Bible you've read before. Can you identify its occasion (the fire) and its purpose (the response)? How does that framework change your reading?

3. Why is literary structure important? How does seeing the "road map" of a book like Galatians help you understand individual passages within it?
