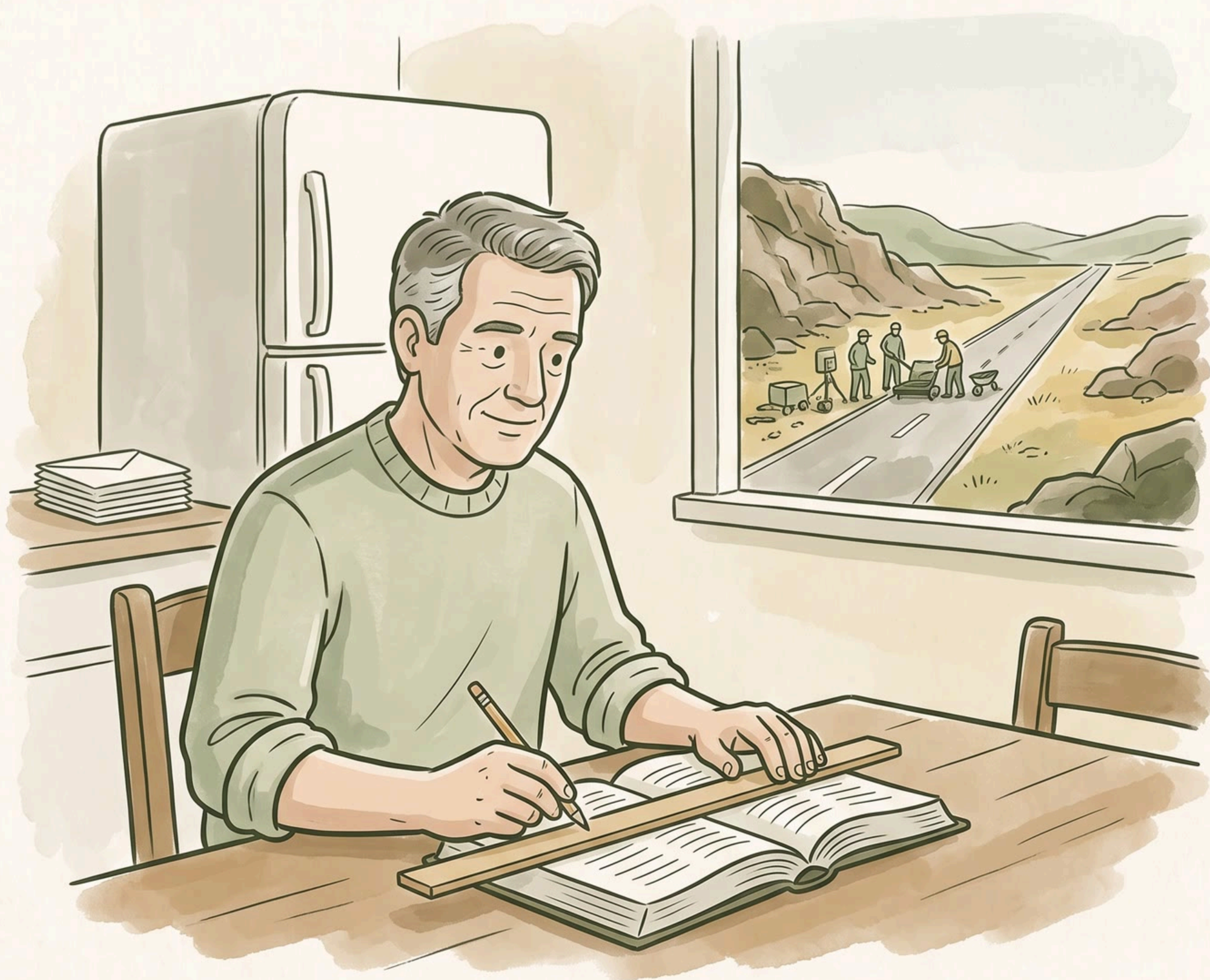


ABIDE 101 • LESSON 2

Study to be Approved to God as a Workman

Meditate and Obey. Study and Apply. Hear and Do.



SECTION 1 • 2 TIMOTHY 2:14–18

The Workman: Handling the Word of Truth

*“Make every effort to present yourself
approved to God, an unashamed workman
who accurately handles the word of truth.”*

2 Timothy 2:15 • BSB

2 TIMOTHY 2:14–18 1 / 2

¹⁴Remind the believers of these things, charging them before God to avoid quarreling over words, which succeeds only in leading the listeners to ruin. ¹⁵Make every effort to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman who accurately handles the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only lead to more ungodliness,

2 TIMOTHY 2:14–18 2 / 2

¹⁷and the talk of such men will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have deviated from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already occurred, and they undermine the faith of some.

Two words carry the verse

“Make every effort”

spoudazō: “to do something with intense effort and motivation” (Louw-Nida 68.63). Paul uses it again: “Make every effort to come to me quickly” (2 Timothy 4:9, BSB).

“Accurately handles”

orthotomeō: “to teach correctly, to expound rightly” (Louw-Nida 33.234). Built from “straight” and “cut.” A road crew cutting a straight road is a picture of it, not the point.

The goal: not to be clever with the Bible but faithful to it, with work that holds up when God inspects it.

So What?

The workman's goal is not to be clever with the Bible but faithful to it. That takes effort, and the effort is worth it, because the One we want to please is God.



SECTION 2 · PSALM 119:129–130

Meant to Be Understood: A Deep Well Close to the Surface

*“The unfolding of Your words gives light;
it informs the simple.”*

Psalms 119:130 · BSB

PSALM 119:129–130

¹²⁹Wonderful are Your testimonies; therefore I obey them. ¹³⁰The unfolding of Your words gives light; it informs the simple.

Every gap has a bridge

Historical gaps

Time, geography
and culture

Literary gaps

Language and genre

Theological gaps

The supernatural and
God's self-revelation

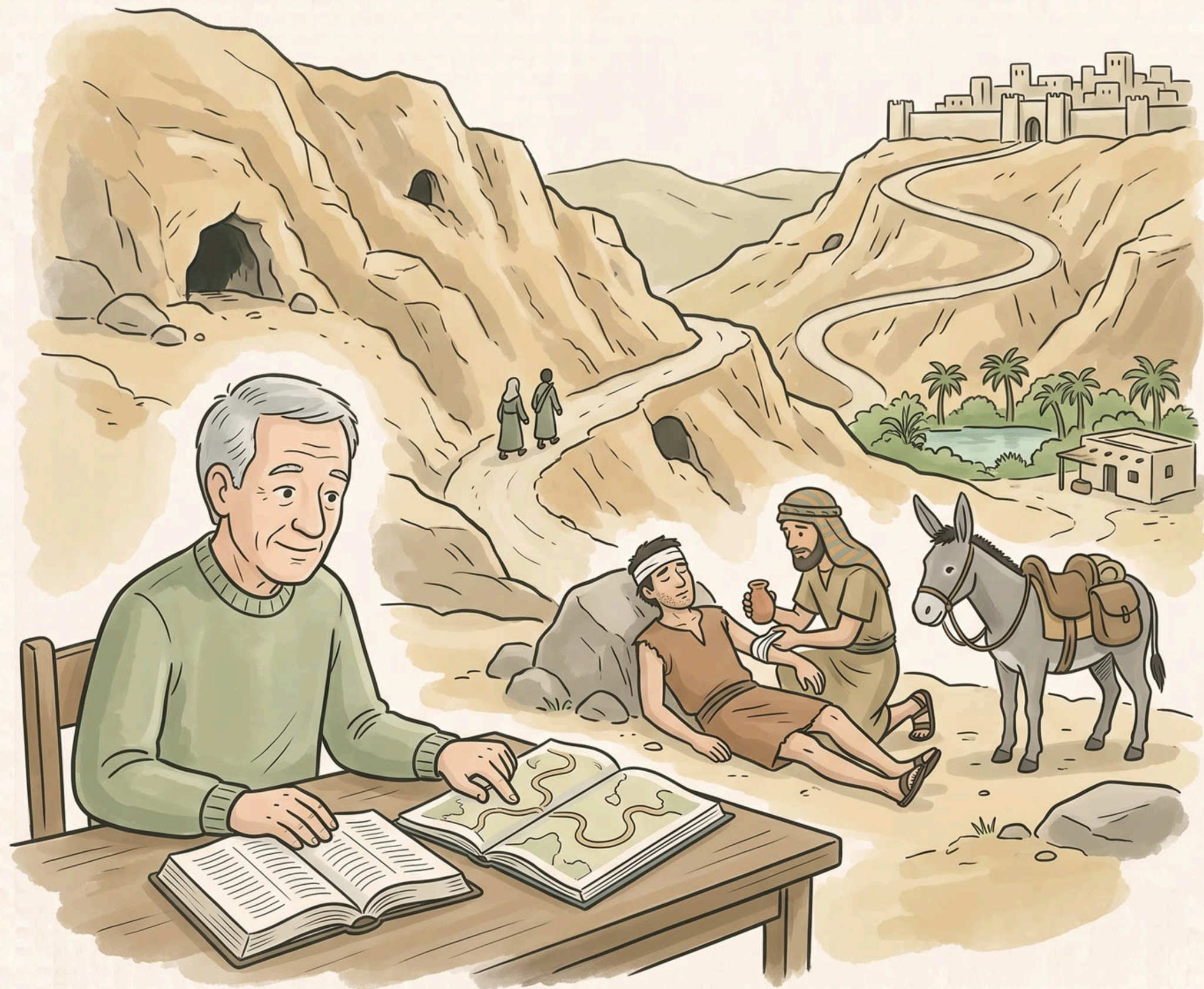
The appropriation gap

Carrying the
message from then
and there to here
and now

“When it comes to Bible interpretation, believers have the Holy Spirit guiding and equipping them every step of the way.” (Fuhr and Köstenberger)

So What?

The Bible was meant to be understood. Every gap in this lesson has a bridge, and you never cross it alone.



SECTION 3 · LUKE 10:30–37

Historical Gaps: Time, Place and Culture

“The one who showed him mercy,” replied the expert in the law. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:37 · BSB

LUKE 10:30–37 1 / 5

³⁰Jesus took up this question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down the same road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

LUKE 10:30–37 2 / 5

³²So too, when a Levite came to that spot and saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan on a journey came upon him, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

LUKE 10:30–37 3 / 5

³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

LUKE 10:30–37 4 / 5

³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he said, ‘and on my return I will repay you for any additional expense.’ ³⁶Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

LUKE 10:30–37 5 / 5

³⁷“The one who showed him mercy,” replied the expert in the law.
Then Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Two worlds, described side by side

	The World of the Bible	Much of Today’s World
Belonging	The group came first: large households led by the father, within a clan and a tribe. Land and family name passed down through the father’s house.	The individual comes first: smaller households, personal choice, roles often worked out together.
Commitments	Covenants: sworn, lasting bonds that made two parties like family, with legal terms and ritual.	Contracts: agreements that spell out what each side owes, often for a set time.
Making a living	Most people farmed or herded, and one bad rainy season could mean famine.	A few farmers feed everyone; most people work in offices, shops, factories or on screens.
Communication	Mostly spoken, heard and memorized. Writing was costly, and texts were read aloud.	Mostly read, often silently, in print and on screens.

Two worlds, described side by side

	The World of the Bible	Much of Today’s World
Time	Looked to the past: tradition, family stories and genealogies told you who you were.	Looks to the future: innovation and change matter more than tradition.
Age	The elderly were honored and held authority (Leviticus 19:32).	Youth is prized, and the newest voice often gets the most attention.
Worship	Shown through temple, sacrifice and purity rules: how to come near a holy God.	Mostly explained in words: sermons, books and studies.
The unseen world	Everyone assumed it was real. The question was not whether God would act, but how.	Many look first for a natural explanation and doubt the supernatural.

Seeing all three gaps at once

Place

“Going down from Jerusalem to Jericho” (v. 30, BSB): a road that “descended 3,400 feet (1,040 m) through steep and rugged hill country pockmarked with caves” (Edwards).

Time

Priests and Levites served at the temple in Jerusalem, and many priests lived in Jericho. Both pass by, “for reasons we are not told” (Edwards).

Culture

“Jews do not associate with Samaritans” (John 4:9, BSB). To most Jews of Jesus’ day, a good Samaritan “would have been a contradiction in terms.”

Crossing the gaps makes the story hit harder, and Jesus’ last words cut deeper: “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37, BSB).

So What?

Every gap you cross brings you closer to hearing the Bible the way its first listeners heard it. History, maps and culture do not make the Bible smaller. They bring it to life.



SECTION 4 · HEBREWS 1:1–2

Literary and Theological Gaps: How God Chose to Speak

“On many past occasions and in many different ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son”

Hebrews 1:1–2 · BSB

HEBREWS 1:1–2

¹On many past occasions and in many different ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. ²But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.

Four gaps, four bridges

Language

Hebrew, some Aramaic, and Koine Greek. **Bridge:** compare a few good translations and use simple word-study tools (lesson 8).

Genre

“A dozen or so primary genres.” **Bridge:** before you read, ask what kind of writing it is (lesson 4).

The supernatural

“The Bible nowhere defends the existence of God; it assumes it.” **Bridge:** faith that God is really present and at work.

God’s self-revelation

One story from Genesis to Revelation, its high point in the Son. We bridge it “increasingly, but never completely”: there is always more of God to know.

So What?

God spoke in many ways so that we could know Him, and He spoke fully in His Son. Every tool you pick up for the language, the genres and the big story of Scripture helps you hear Him more clearly.



SECTION 5 · EZEKIEL 33:30–32

The Appropriation Gap: From Then and There to Here and Now

*“They hear your words but do not put
them into practice.”*

Ezekiel 33:32 · BSB

EZEKIEL 33:30–32 1 / 3

³⁰As for you, son of man, your people are talking about you near the city walls and in the doorways of their houses. One speaks to another, each saying to his brother, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the LORD!’

EZEKIEL 33:30–32 2 / 3

³¹So My people come to you as usual, sit before you, and hear your words; but they do not put them into practice. Although they express love with their mouths, their hearts pursue dishonest gain.

EZEKIEL 33:30–32 3 / 3

³²Indeed, you are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful voice, who skillfully plays an instrument. They hear your words but do not put them into practice.

Three ways a passage crosses to today

Directly

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, BSB) and “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37, BSB) apply to every believer, just as they stand.

By a cultural equivalent

“Greet one another with a holy kiss” (Romans 16:16, BSB): warm, family affection among believers. Today, a handshake, a hug or a warm word.

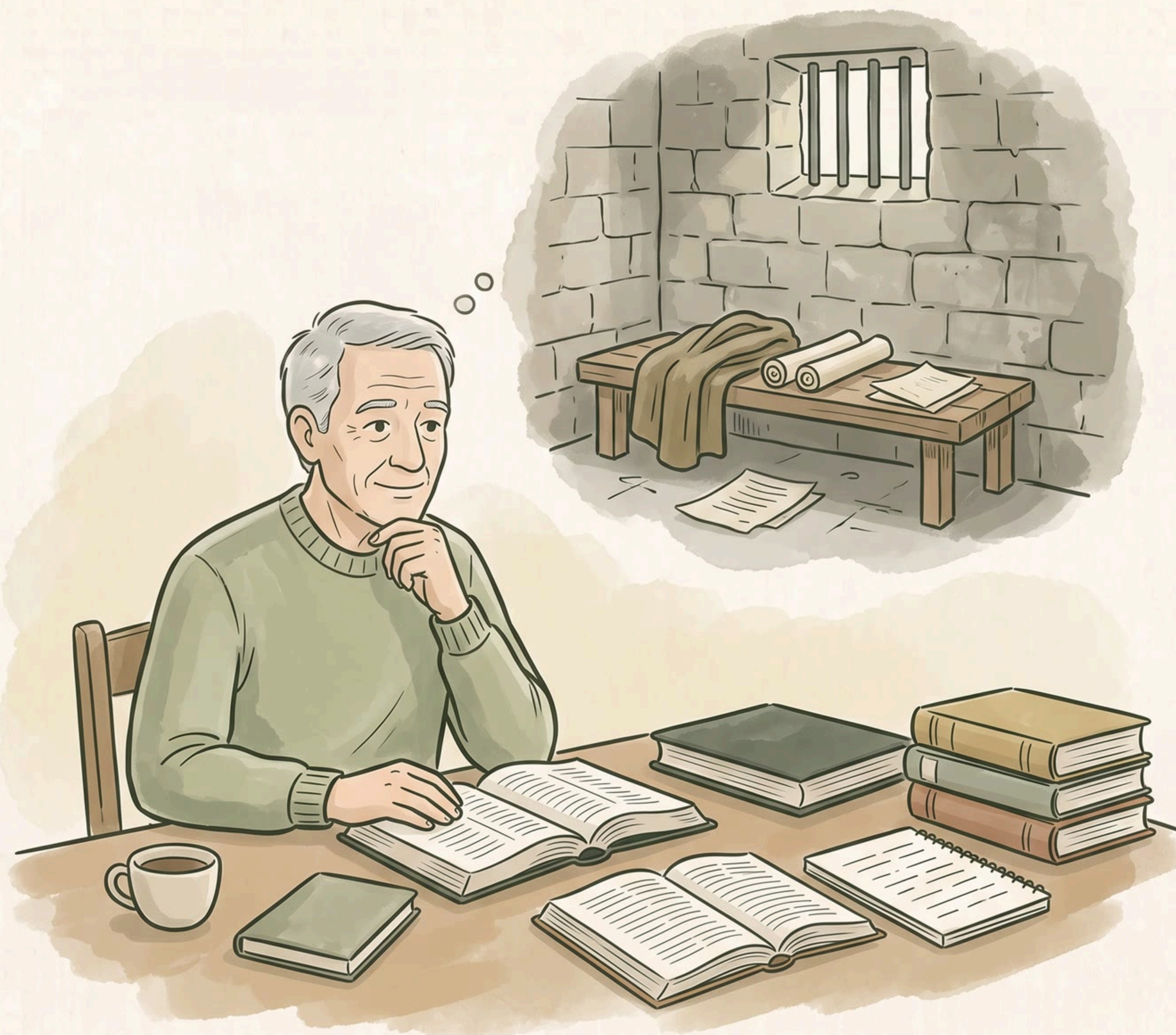
Through a principle

“Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas” (2 Timothy 4:13, BSB). Go out of your way to serve a brother or sister in need.

“A nuanced art that requires not only interpretive skill but also spiritual seasoning and maturity.” Every disciple grows into it.

So What?

Understanding the Bible is a beginning, not the goal. The goal is a changed life. Every passage you study is waiting to cross into your here and now.



SECTION 6 • 2 TIMOTHY 4:9–13

Crossing the Gaps: Know the Book Before You Read It

“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.”

2 Timothy 4:13 • BSB

2 TIMOTHY 4:9–13 1 / 2

⁹Make every effort to come to me quickly, ¹⁰because Demas, in his love of this world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me in the ministry. ¹²Tychicus, however, I have sent to Ephesus.

2 TIMOTHY 4:9–13 2 / 2

¹³When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

Your book background guide

TIME GAP Author and time Who wrote this book, and when? What was happening in the world then?	CULTURE GAP First readers Who first received it? What were their background, beliefs and struggles?	Occasion and purpose Why was it written? What did the author want his readers to know, believe or do?
GENRE GAP Kind of writing Narrative, poetry, prose discourse or apocalyptic? Most books mix them.	PLACE GAP Place Where were the author and the readers? Who ruled, and what was the land like?	THEOLOGICAL GAP Place in God’s story What had God already revealed? What came later? Where does this book fit in His plan of salvation?

Let Scripture answer first. Then consult wisely: “consultation is conversation.” Weigh what sources say; don’t just give in to them.

So What?

A few good questions at the start of a book open up everything that follows. Let Scripture answer first, then talk with trusted guides, and you will be well on your way across the gaps.



SECTION 7 · PHILIPPIANS 2:12–13
PSALM 119:18

The Spirit Bridges the Last Gap: An Invitation

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.”

Philippians 2:13 · BSB

PHILIPPIANS 2:12–13

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.

So What?

You are not crossing the gaps alone. Make every effort, use the tools, ask good questions, and trust the God who is at work in you. He wants to be known, and His Word was meant to be understood.

AN INVITATION

“God is more intent on revealing himself to you than you are to get to know him.”

Fuhr and Köstenberger, *Inductive Bible Study*

“Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law.”

Psalms 119:18 · BSB

Meditate and Obey. Study and Apply. Hear and Do.