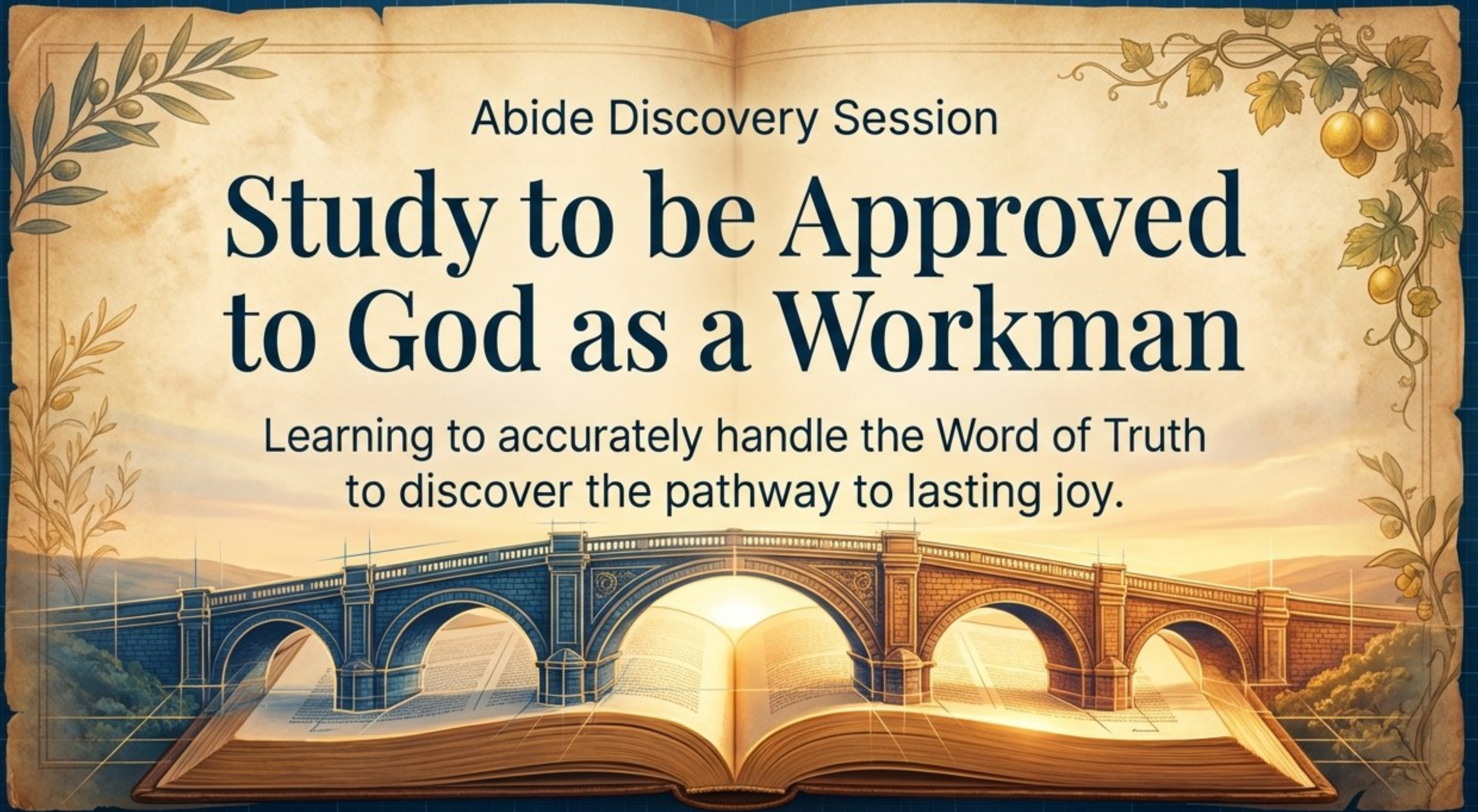


Abide Discovery Session

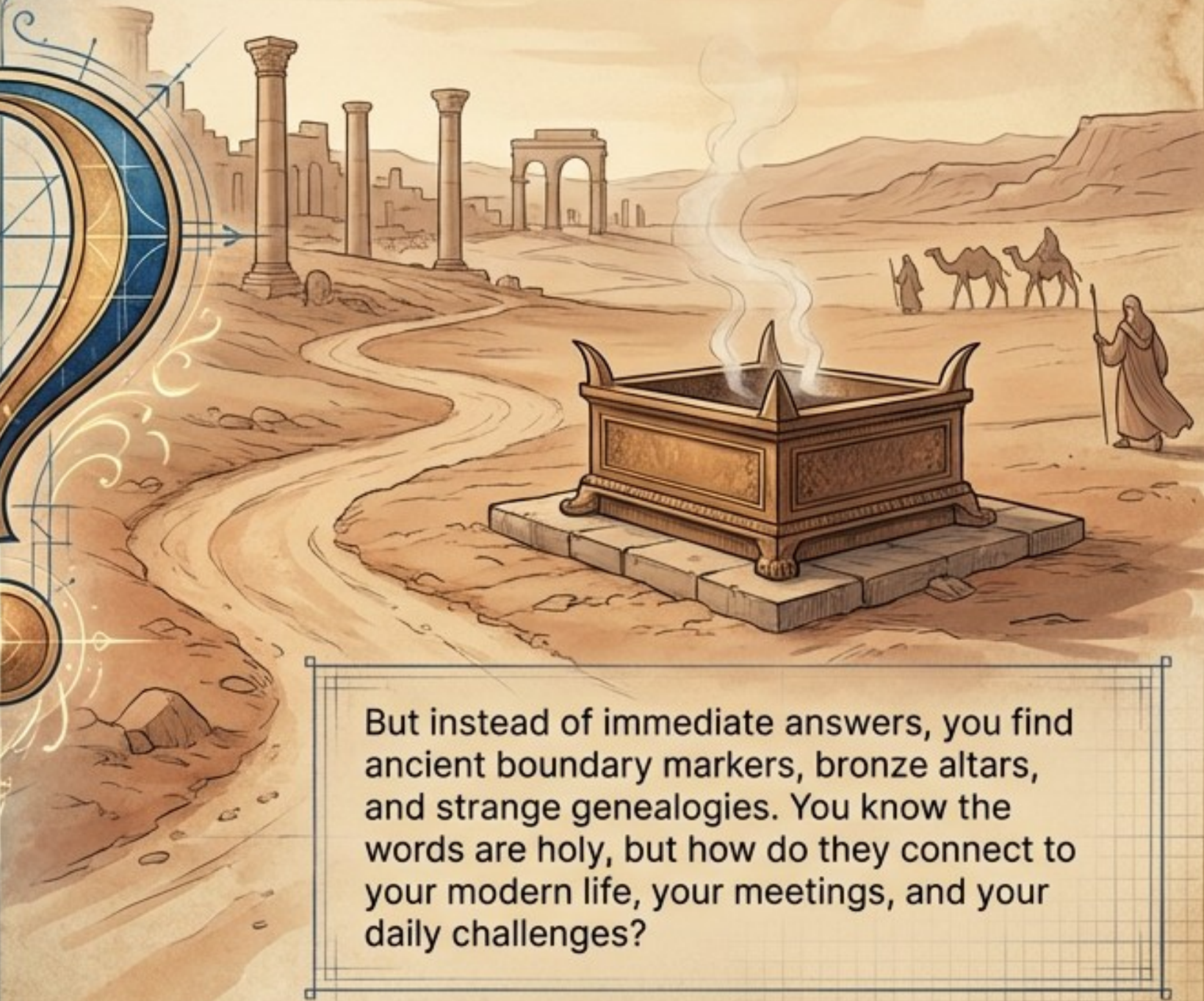
Study to be Approved to God as a Workman

Learning to accurately handle the Word of Truth
to discover the pathway to lasting joy.



The Stranger in a Foreign Land Experience

Imagine it's a Tuesday afternoon. The hum of the refrigerator is the only sound in your kitchen. You open your Bible, desperate for a word from God.



But instead of immediate answers, you find ancient boundary markers, bronze altars, and strange genealogies. You know the words are holy, but how do they connect to your modern life, your meetings, and your daily challenges?

The Workman's Mandate

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15, LSB)

In God's Kingdom, there is no shame in being a learner. But we are called to diligence—an active, focused intensity. We don't strive to earn God's love; we already have it! We strive to honor the weight of the Truth we hold.

Accurately Handling: Like a master builder joining two beams perfectly, or a tailor cutting a perfectly straight line of fabric.



Working with God-Breathed Truth

“All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching... so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, LSB)

We handle the Word with reverence because of what it is: Theopneustos—literally, the very breath of God.

The Goal:

We study so that we can be fully equipped and capable for the beautiful works God has prepared for us.

Bridging the Great Divide

If we read the Bible assuming ancient authors thought exactly like modern Westerners, we accidentally distort God's heart. Recognizing our differences is the first step to true understanding.

The Biblical World

Culture: Covenantal (Relational bond)

Society: Agrarian (Farming/Land)

Communication: Oral Tradition (Spoken/Memorized)

Structure: Patriarchal (Male-led families)

Logic: Religious Ritual (Temple/Purity)

Our Modern World

Culture: Contractual (Legal agreements)

Society: Industrial/Digital (Technology)

Communication: Literate Culture (Digital/Printed)

Structure: Egalitarian (Shared roles)

Logic: Rational Thought (Scientific reasoning)

A Mental Shift: Learning to Fish

Let's practice a mental shift.



The Biblical Reality:

In the Bible, a Covenant is more like a marriage—a deep, permanent, relational bond.



A Contract is a Service:

To our modern minds, a contract is a service—like a cell phone plan we can cancel if the service is bad.

If we view God as a business partner we can sue, rather than a Father we can trust, we distort His heart. We must build bridges to the ancient world!

Bridging the Gaps

These gaps are not barriers to keep us out; they are warm invitations to dive deeper into God's heart.



1. The Historical Gap:

Crossing thousands of years and changing borders to understand the original setting.

2. The Literary Gap:

Honoring the original languages (Hebrew, Greek) and specific genres (poetry, prophecy).

3. The Theological Gap:

Moving beyond modern rationalism to expect encounters with God's supernatural realities.

4. The Appropriation Gap:

The final bridge from ancient meaning to personal application.

The Appropriation Gap: From Hearing to Doing

This is the most crucial bridge, and the one most often left uncrossed. It moves us from **“What did it mean then?”** to **“What does it mean for me now?”**

The Idle Traveler & The Mirror:

Gathering facts without application is like staring at a map but never starting the car. We must not be like the person who looks in a mirror, mess, and walks away without fixing it (James 1:22–25, LSB).



Turning Reading into Relationship

Discipleship is not a solitary academic pursuit. It is a collaborative partnership between your diligent heart and the empowering Holy Spirit. We bridge the gap using three pairs of action:

1 Meditate & Obey:
Filling our minds to
fuel our actions.



This is the Great Commission! Jesus called for a community that knows the Word well enough to live it, and teach others to live it (Matthew 28:19–20, LSB).



The Pathway to Joy: Meditation

Strategic discipleship is about transformation, not just information.

The Builder's Blueprint: The Hebrew word for meditate is Hagah, which means to **mutter** or muse. It's like a master builder talking to himself over the blueprints to ensure every measurement is absolutely perfect.

The Missing Step: God observes that people often treat His Word like a beautiful song—they enjoy the sound but have no intention of doing what it says (Ezekiel 33:30–32, LSB).

We do not empty our minds; we fill our minds with the Word until it naturally overflows into obedience!

Real Abiding: The Four Pillars

To “abide” (*Menō*) is a rich, multi-layered relationship. It means making God’s words your home.

Real Abiding: The Four Pillars

- 1. Faith:** Believing in Jesus as God’s Son.
- 2. Commitment:** Receiving Him as Savior and Lord.
- 3. Action:** Obeying His commands.
- 4. Relationship:** Relating in love to His people.

As Jesus taught, this obedience is never a heavy burden. It is the secret to having His joy remain in us until our joy is complete (John 15:1–11, LSB).





Equipped for the Journey

You are not meant to build these bridges by your own strength. God has given you a Divine Advocate to ensure you can understand Him.



The Spirit Reveals: The Holy Spirit searches the very “depths of God” and reveals them to you (1 Corinthians 2, LSB).



The Spirit Teaches: He acts as your Teacher, bringing the words of Jesus to your remembrance (John 14:25–26, LSB).



A New Heart: God doesn’t just hand us a book; He gives us a new heart and puts His Spirit inside us to cause us to walk in His ways (Ezekiel 36:26–27, LSB).

The Warmest Invitation

“How blessed is the man who... delight[s] in the law of Yahweh... he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit...” (Psalm 1:1–3, LSB)

In Hebrew, the word ‘blessed’ is *Ashrei*. It is a plural term meaning ‘Oh the blessednesses!’ It describes a deep, overflowing plurality of joy found only in God.

God wants to reveal Himself to you more than you want to know Him. When you open your Bible, you aren't just reading a text; you are meeting a Person.

