

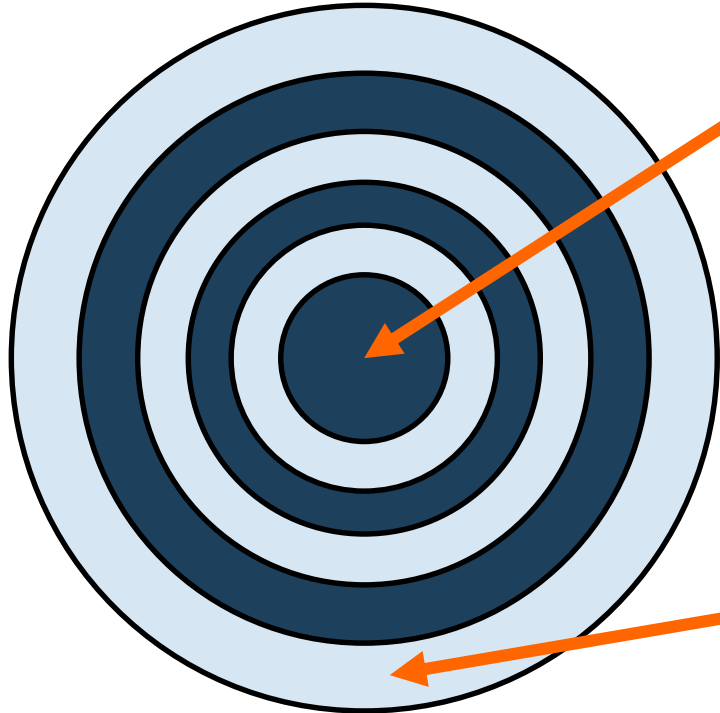
Principles of Bible Study

Observation

Context



Circles of Context



- Single Word
- Phrase (Grammar) Context
- Immediate Context
- Book Context
- Bible Context
- Cultural/Historical Context
- Literary Context

Term Context

Rules to define biblical terms

1. Every term has only one meaning in a given context.
σαρξ (sarx) – “flesh” – (Acts 2:26; Rom. 7:18)
2. The context both defines and limits the meaning of a given term

Use tools like innerliniar, lexicons, [Bible dictionaries](#)

Near Context

- Identify a complete thought (paragraph) to define near context then move to larger context
- Study Bible helps - Book outlines
- Use grammatical and literary observations to help
- Follow the thought pattern of the author, what are they saying in context? This may extend to multiple chapters.

Wide Context

- Consider the author, audience, historical setting, and culture
- The interpretation of a text must be consistent with it's book.
- Consider the text in context with the Genre- Historical Writings, The Gospels, Parables, Poetry, Epistles (literal or figurative)
- Consider the placement of the text in the Bible – OT, NT, ect
- Interpret in context with the whole Bible – The centrality of Christ and God's plan to restore and redeem humanity

Observations Keys to Remember

- Begin with Prayer
- Focus on the obvious facts
- Look for key words and phrases, repetition, ideas
- Look for references to author and audience
- Ask questions
- Ask Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

Context - Exercise

- Read 1 Thessalonians 1
- Identify and list key words and phrases
- Identify the “thought breaks” paragraphs
- What is the key term and main point in each paragraph
- Discuss the near and wide context of this text