

## Summer Road Trip: A Journey into the Bible Sundays Part 5 – ‘Toolkit’: How to Interpret the Bible

The art of interpreting the Bible based upon interpretive principles is called, ‘Hermeneutics’

The goal of interpretation is to find *the original authors intended meaning to his original audience.*

When approaching the Bible, there are two contrasts to Biblical interpretation:

1. Exegesis – to draw out of the scriptures what it says.
2. Eisegesis – to read into the scriptures what it doesn’t say.

### Tools to help us properly interpret the Bible

#### TOOL #1. METHODS OF ENGAGING THE BIBLE

1. Bible Reading: Chronological and Devotional
2. Bible Study: Expository, Topical, Character, Word Study
3. Bible Memorization
4. Bible Meditation

#### TOOL #2: FINDING THE CONTEXT

There are three things that matter in Bible interpretation: CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT

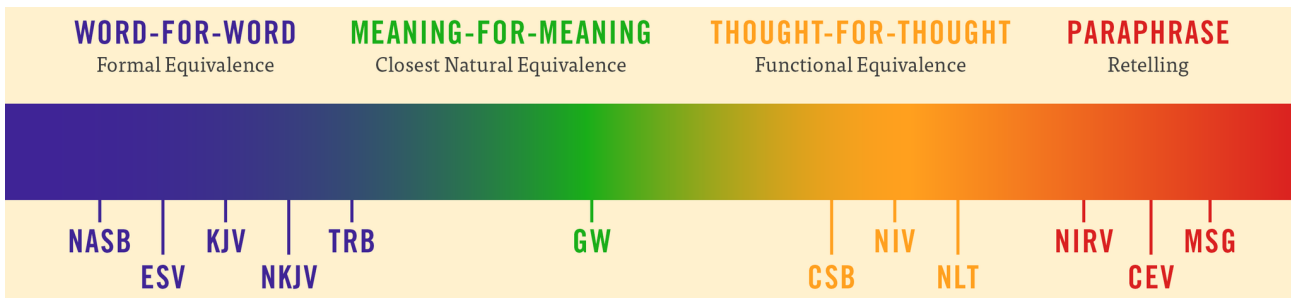
Finding the context is about asking the right questions:

- Who is the author/speaker, and who is the recipients/audience? (*Audience Relevance*)
- What kind of literature am I reading? (*Literary Context - Genre*)
- What are the historical particulars surrounding the text? (*Historical Context*)
- What is the overall message the author means for the original audience? (*Original Intent*)
- What section/part of the Bible am I in? (*Ex. Old or New Covenant*)
- When and where are things in this passage taking place? (*Historical Particulars*)
- Why was this written? (*Occasion*)
- How does this compare to other scriptures and the whole of the Bible? (*Intertextuality*)
- How do I view this passage through the message of Jesus, the Gospel, and the New Covenant? (*Christocentric*)

#### TOOL #3: BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

There are three primary methods for modern Biblical Translations:

1. Word for Word
2. Meaning for Meaning/Thought for Thought
3. Paraphrase



#### TOOL #4: STUDY HELPS

These are resources to help you answer the above questions:

- Study Bibles, Parallel Bibles, Interlinear (Original Language) Bibles, Commentaries, Bible Survey Books, Online Helps (such as websites, podcasts, software, and apps), and Deeper Study Helps (such as concordances, Bible dictionaries/encyclopedias, Lexicons)