

Handout (English Version - Module 4)

Module 4: The Bible

Your Daily Compass: How to Read, Understand, and Live

Welcome to the Tool Level!

We know who we are, what moves us, and how we lead. Now, we need the right tool to navigate. The Bible is not just an ancient book; it is God's voice written to guide your life today. In this module, we will learn how to handle this compass without getting lost along the way.

1. What is the Bible? (The Big Picture)

Many view the Bible as a book of rules or legends. But the reality is much richer.

- **It is not a book, it is a LIBRARY:** It contains **66 books**, written by over **40 authors** (fishermen, kings, doctors, shepherds), over a period of **1500 years**, on 3 continents.
- **One Single Story:** Despite the diversity, the entire Bible tells one unified story: the redemption of humanity through Jesus.
- **Old Testament:** Promise (Someone is coming).
- **Gospels:** Fulfillment (He has arrived - Jesus).
- **Rest of the New Testament:** Hope (He is coming back and how to live until then).

The Master Key: Jesus is the key to interpreting all Scripture. If you read the Old Testament without the lens of Jesus, you might get confused.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” (Psalm 119:105) (Note: A lamp illuminates the next step, not the whole road. It is light for today.)

2. The O.I.A. Method (How not to read wrong)

To avoid taking verses out of context (using a text as a "pretext"), we use a simple 3-step method:

Step 1: OBSERVATION (What does the text say?)

Be a **Detective**. Look at the facts.

- Who wrote it? To whom?
- What is the literary genre? (Is it Poetry? History? Letter? Prophecy?).
- What do the verses before and after say?

Step 2: INTERPRETATION (What does it mean?)

Be a **Journalist**. Look for the original meaning.

- **Golden Rule:** A text cannot mean today what it never meant to the original readers.
- What was the historical and cultural context? What did the author want to teach those people, at that time?

Step 3: APPLICATION (What do I do?)

Be a **Builder**. The Bible is meant to transform, not just inform.

- How does this eternal truth apply to my life today?
- What do I need to change? (An attitude, an action, a thought, a relationship).

3. Daily Bread (Discipline vs. Intensity)

“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)

The Bible is spiritual food.

- **The Common Mistake:** Eating only on Sunday (at church). This leads to spiritual malnutrition.
- **The Secret:** Consistency beats intensity.
 - It is better to read **3 verses a day** and meditate on them, than to try to read a whole book once a month.
 - Create a rhythm. Set a place and a time.

4. Questions for Group Discussion

Let's be practical about our devotional life.

Core Questions:

1. **The Real Struggle:** What is your biggest difficulty in reading the Bible today? (Lack of time? Laziness? Don't understand the language? Find it boring?)
2. **The O.I.A. Method:** Do you usually skip "Observation and Interpretation" and go straight to "what does this say to me"? Have you ever had an experience of understanding something wrong because of this?
3. **Application:** Can you share a moment when a verse or Bible story helped you make a practical decision or changed an attitude of yours?

Going Deeper:

4. **The Library:** How does knowing that the Bible has various styles (poetry, history, letters) change the way you read difficult or strange texts?
5. **Check-up:** If your physical diet were the same as your spiritual diet (frequency of Bible reading), how would your physical health be today? (In a coma? Weak? Healthy and strong?)
6. **Tools:** What apps, Bibles (versions), or reading plans do you use that help you? Share tips with the group.

My reading commitment for this week:
