

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL START EXAMINING THE CIRCLES OF LITERARY CONTEXT

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) REVIEW
- 2) DISCERN THE NEED TO EXAMINE THE LITERARY CONTEXT
- 3) INTERPRET A TEXT IN THE CIRCLE OF ITS LOCAL CONTEXT
- 4) PRACTICE INTERPRETING A VERSE WITHIN ITS LOCAL CONTEXT

PART 1 – REVIEW :

ANSWER FIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AUTHOR (OF EPHESIANS):

WHO WAS HE?...PAUL

WHEN DID HE WRITE THE BOOK?...ABOUT A.D. 62

WHAT SETTING WAS HE IN?...HE WAS IN PRISON IN ROME

WHAT RELATIONSHIP DID HE HAVE WITH THOSE HE WROTE TO?...PAUL HAD SPENT SOME YEARS IN EPHESUS AND HAD MANY FRIENDS THERE.

WHAT WAS HIS PURPOSE?...EPHESIANS DOES NOT ADDRESS ANY PARTICULAR ERROR OR HERESY. HE WROTE TO HELP HIS READERS COMPREHEND THE DIMENSIONS OF GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN AND GRACE AND COME TO APPRECIATE THE HIGH GOALS GOD HAS FOR THE CHURCH...

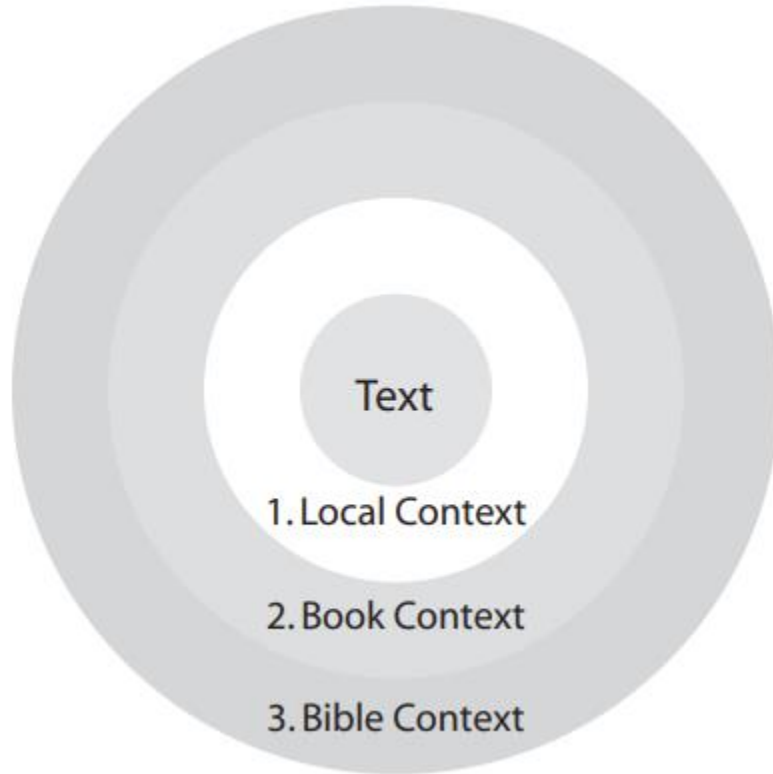
ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE BIBLICAL BOOK (OF EPHESIANS):

WHO WERE THEY?...DEEPLY RELIGIOUS PRIOR TO CONVERSION—CHIEF DEVOTION TO DIANA. AS CHRISTIANITY ADVANCED, THE WORSHIP OF DIANA DECLINED. UNDER PAUL'S FOUNDING LEADERSHIP, THE PEOPLE FORMED ONE OF THE STRONGEST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF THE FIRST CENTURY. THE EPHESIAN CHURCH INCLUDED WEALTHY GREEKS WHO TENDED TO LOOK DOWN ON THEIR FELLOW JEWISH CHRISTIANS.

WHAT WAS THEIR CITY OR TOWN LIKE?...THE COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, AND RELIGIOUS CENTER OF WESTERN ASIA.

WHAT WAS THEIR SOCIAL STATUS?...WEALTHY GREEKS.

PART 2 – DISCERN THE NEED TO EXAMINE THE LITERARY CONTEXT:



Q 1) WHAT IS "LITERARY CONTEXT"?

A)

Q 2) WHAT IS "THE LAW OF CONTEXT"?

A)

Q 3) WHY ARE THE CIRCLES OF LITERARY CONTEXT IMPORTANT?

A)

Q 4) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TEXT IS DIVORCED FROM ITS CONTEXT?

A)

Q 5) WHAT MUST WE PAY ATTENTION TO WHEN WE DISCERN THE LITERARY CONTEXT OF A VERSE?

A)

Q 6) WHAT MAY A TEXT WITHOUT CONTEXT ACTUALLY BE?

A)

PART 3 – THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF A SPECIFIC PASSAGE:

Q 7) WHAT DOES LOCAL CONTEXT INCLUDE?

A)

Q 8) WHAT IS A PARAGRAPH?

A)

Q 9) WHAT IS A SUBDIVISION?

A)

Q 10) WHAT IS THE GOOD SIDE OF HAVING NUMBERS FOR CHAPTERS AND VERSES?

A)

Q 11) WHAT IS THE DOWNSIDE OF HAVING NUMBERS FOR CHAPTERS AND VERSES?

A)

PART 4 – WRAPPING UP – PRACTICE INTERPRETING A VERSE WITHIN ITS LOCAL CONTEXT:

Interpreting a Verse Within Its Paragraph

1. Read the paragraph that contains Philippians 4:13 to understand the local context of the verse. Then answer the question to interpret the verse.

What did Paul mean when he said that he could do everything through Christ?

2. Read Hebrews 11:32-34. Then answer the question to interpret the verse.

What is the message or theme of Hebrews 11:32-34?

Interpreting a Verse Within Its Subdivision

3. Complete the right column in the diagram.

Text	Subdivision Verses
Isaiah 53:6	Isaiah 52:11–53:12
1 Corinthians 10:32	
Matthew 7:1	
Matthew 11:6	

****Determine the verses that fit with your subdivision****

