



PATHWAYS TO DISCIPLESHIP

Listening To Our Beloved

WHAT IS PATHWAYS?

- An intentional focus on becoming more like Jesus
- A gathering of disciples with a common goal of living out their faith in their community context
- A blend of teaching, experiential learning, small group discussion, and prayer
- A place where open discussion is welcomed

LISTENING
TO OUR
BELOVED



“Human relationships are cultivated and maintained by certain practices—listening, communicating, sharing, and sacrifice. So, too, there are regular practices that cultivate, maintain, and embody our relationship with God.”

Holloway & Lavender
“Living God’s Love”

- We read in many ways
- Good ways to read the Bible!
- No substitute for close, dedicated Bible study!

JOHN 5:39,40

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

- Jesus isn't telling them to study the Scriptures less
- He's reminding them of the deeper purpose
- To draw us to God through Jesus
- Bible study is a means, not an end

For the disciples, “We read the Bible for more than information. By studying it, we experience transformation, the mysterious process of God at work in us. Through His loving words, God is calling us to life with Him. He is forming us into the image of His Son.”

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“Reading the Bible is not like reading other books. We are not simply trying to learn information or master material.

Instead we want to stand under the authority of Scripture and let God master us. While we read the Bible, it reads us, opening the depths of our being to the overpowering of the love of God.”

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HEBREWS 4:12-13

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

“Let us be clear. We believe all Scripture is God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16). It’s the word of God written. As we saw in the section above, it’s the primary way God speaks to us today. God is a consistent God who will never speak to us in ways contrary to our Bible (although he may very well speak in ways contrary to our understanding of the Bible), but our God is a living, active, loving God....”

Holloway & Lavender
“Living God’s Love”

“... who seeks us in every aspect of life. He speaks through other people, through circumstance, and in the deep recesses of our hearts. Through His Spirit He enlightens us, not by inspiring new revelation so we can write new books of the Bible, but by opening our lives to what He is saying to us and to the churches through His word, the Bible.”

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Love Letters



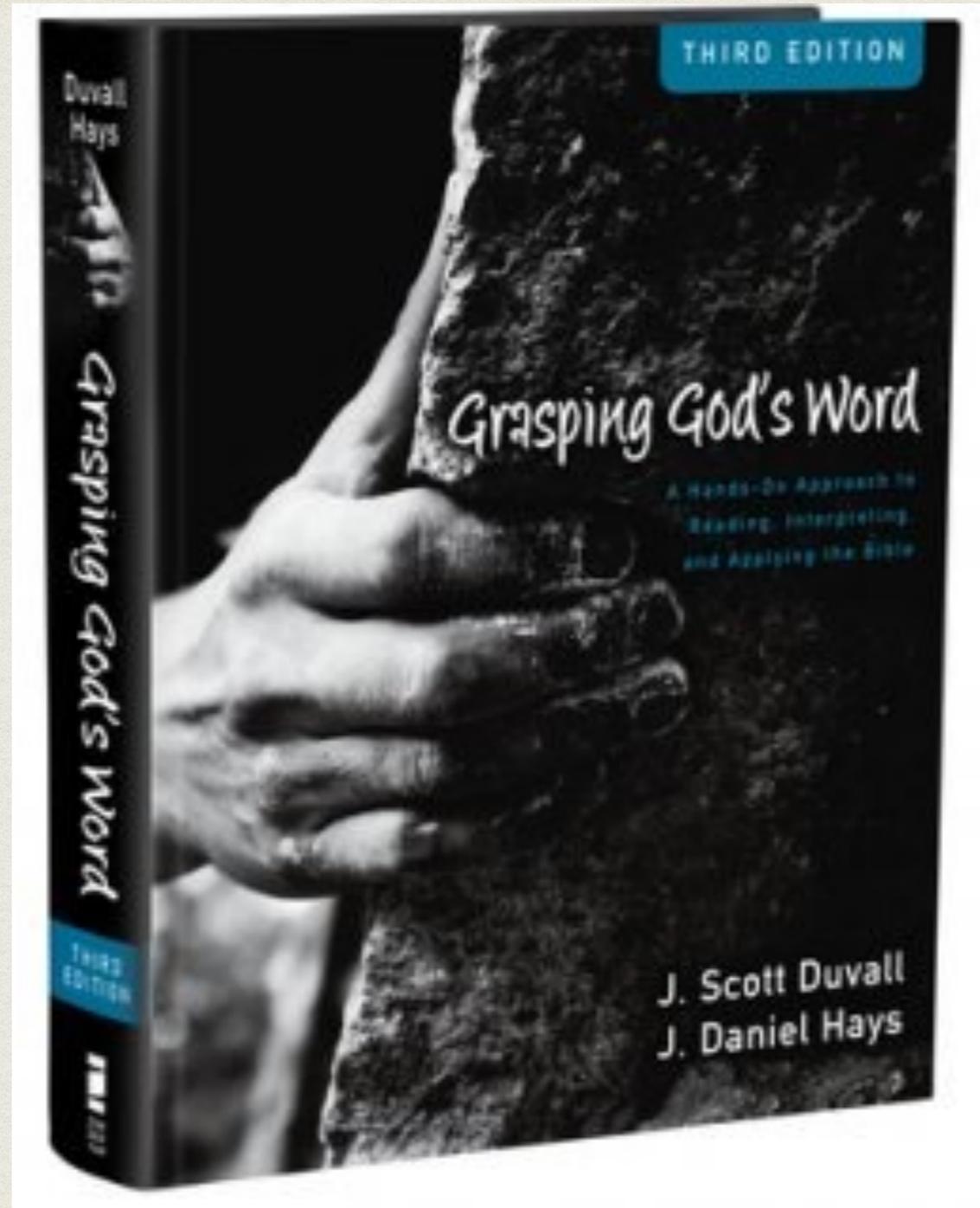
CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT!

- Historical: we're widely separated in time from the original writers of Scripture. Different circumstances.
- Cultural/Social: modern culture is different in many ways than the culture of, say, 30AD Jerusalem.
- Language: The Bible's original languages are Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They have different structures and idioms that don't always perfectly translate. "Many mansions"- Greek: monai... a mistranslation?

A COMMON EXAMPLE

- Let's look at Jeremiah 29:11 and apply some basic exegetical and hermeneutical principles.
- Questions of the text: What was happening at the time of this writing? Who was the author? The audience? What circumstances were they facing? What was the author's intended meaning? Are there "cultural" factors that may impede us from understanding this?
- Are we able to apply the concepts of this passage to our own lives. How so?

GRASPING GOD'S WORD





Ok, but now
what?

PSALM 119:11

“I have hidden your word in
my heart, that I might not sin
against you.”

LISTENING TO OUR BELOVED

- God has given us His Word to guide us, draw us closer to Him, protect us, and show us how to live... and what's in store.
- We seek out His word with the **hope** that it will transform us- to become more like Jesus.



Lectio Divina



Discovery

Bible

Study

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- What role do you think Bible Study plays in our relationship with God?
- How have you seen God transform you through your study of the Scriptures?



GROUP QUESTIONS

- Have you ever received an important letter from someone close? What did it say? What did you do when you got it?
- What methods of study do you use?
- Along with Bible Study, what other ways do you listen to God?



CHALLENGE

Find a method of Bible study that connects with you. Use it this week as you spend time in Scripture. Pray that God uses this time to transform you.



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