

1. Understanding the Scriptures

- a) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 What important insights can you gain from Paul’s inspired counsel to Timothy?
- b) Deuteronomy 32:46-47 What promise is given to those who receive and obey the Word of God? (see also Revelation 1:3)
- c) How can we learn to appreciate and apply the Word of God to our lives more than we have in the past?

2. Key Words and Their Meanings

- a) Mercy (chesed)—lovingkindness, covenant loyalty Psalm 57:3, Psalm 66:20, Psalm 143:8
- b) Peace (shalom)—wholeness, well-being Numbers 6:24-26, Job 3:26, Psalm 29:11, Isaiah 9:6, 26:3-4
- c) Grace (unmerited favor, unfailing love) Ephesians 2:8, 1:2, John 1:14-16, 2 Thessalonians 3:18
- d) Agape love (self-sacrificing love) John 3:16, 1 John 3:1, 4:8, 18-19
- e) What key words in Scripture have become especially meaningful to you?

3. Repetition, Word Patterns, and Meaning

- a) Genesis 1:26-27 What words are emphasized here through repetition?
- b) Isaiah 6:3 Why do the angels repeat the word “holy” three times?

- c) John 13:34-35 What key word does Jesus repeat here? Why is this message from Jesus to His first disciples so relevant for our lives today?

4. Texts and Contexts

- a) Read Acts 20:9 and Luke 10:37b. What is the danger of reading these passages out of context?
- b) Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 15-23 How is “adam” used differently in these passages of Scripture?
- c) What is the larger context for the creation of Adam and Eve? (see Genesis 1-2)
- d) Why is the context of John 13:3-17 important when seeking to understand the meaning of John 13:10?

5. Books and Their Meaning

- a) The Bible contains different types of literature: historical accounts, prophecy, poetry, etc.
- b) The authors of some books are identified, either by the author or by others. Give examples? Ephesians 1:1, Joshua 8:31-32, etc.
- c) Genesis is the book of beginnings. What other important theme is found in this book? Genesis 15:1-5, 22:13-18
- d) Why is it important to grasp the overarching theme of each book? (For example, see John 20:30-31, 5:39-40, 11:27, 14:6)
- e) Which book of the Bible is your favorite? Why?

