

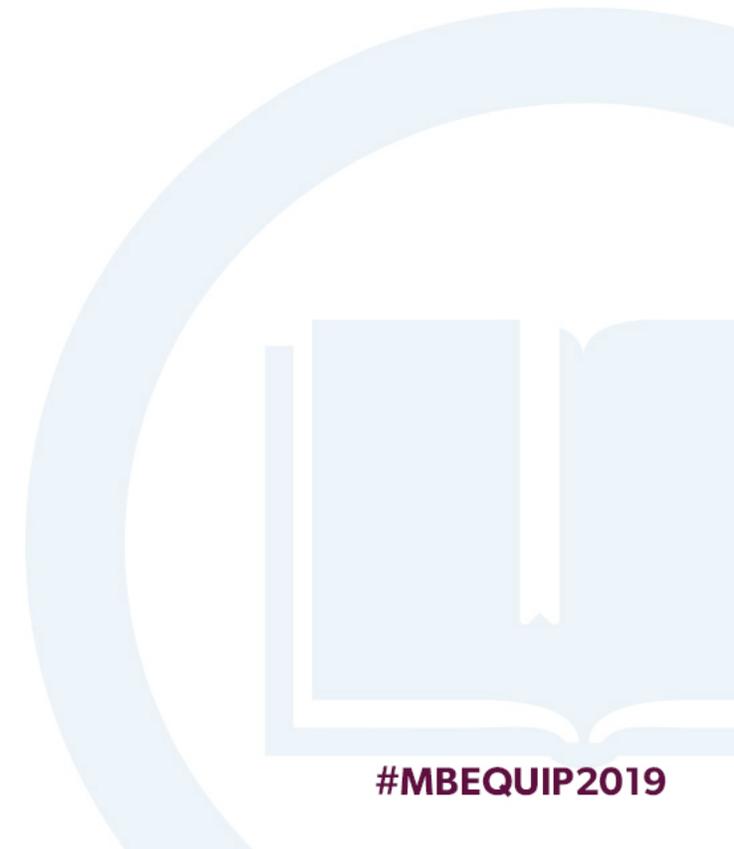
# Interpreting Scripture Today

Doug Heidebrecht and Mark Wessner



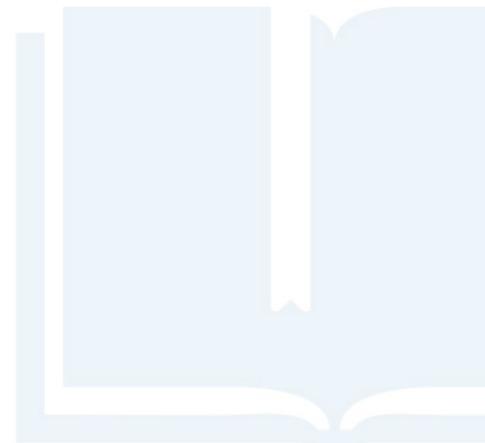
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# Interpreting Scripture



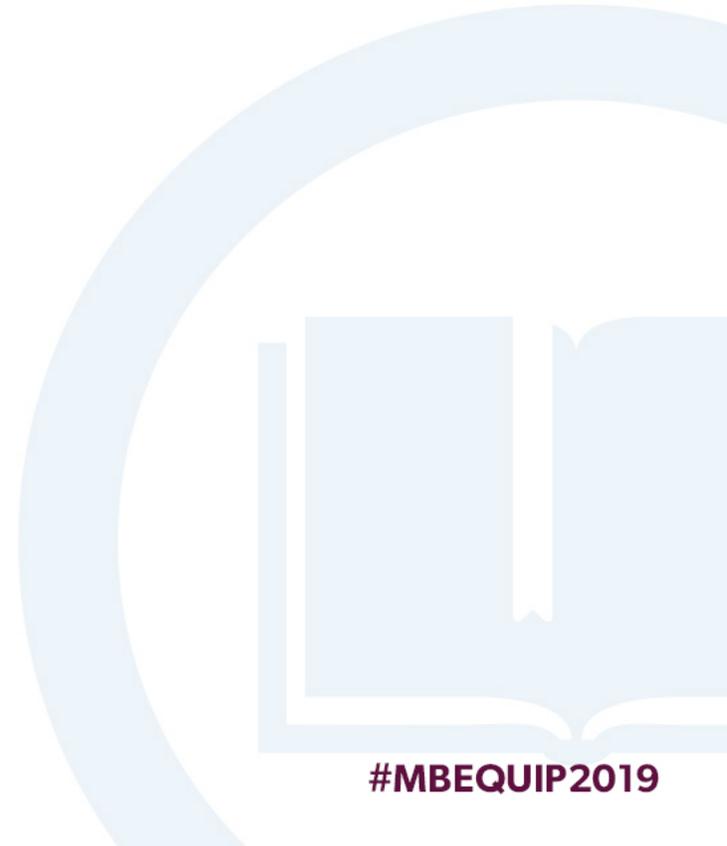
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# Interpreting Scripture



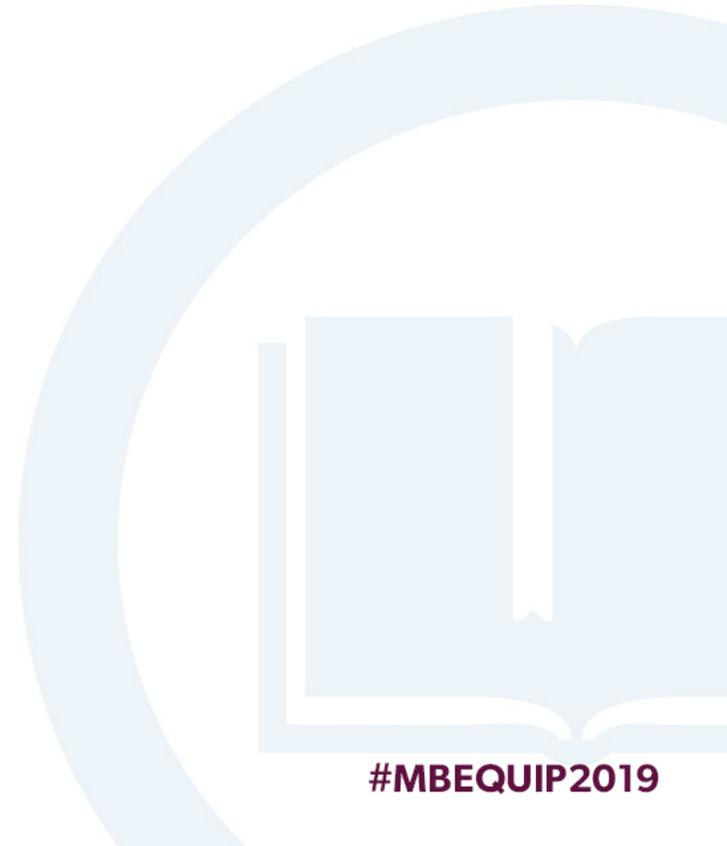
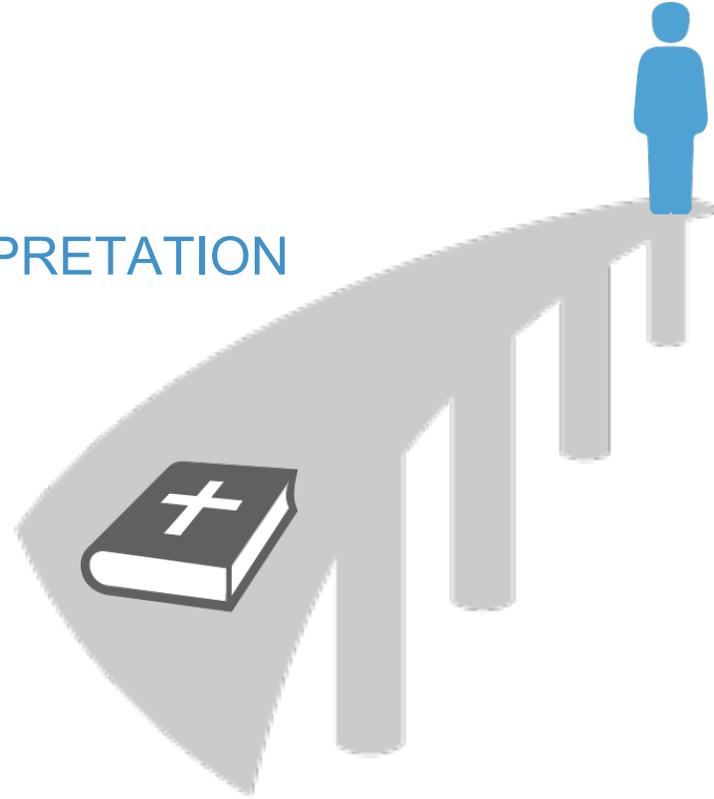
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# Interpreting Scripture



# Interpreting Scripture

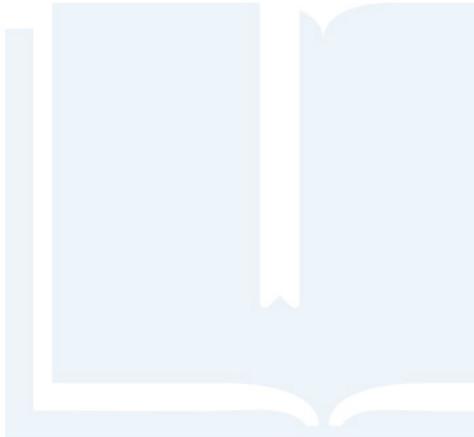
INTERPRETATION



SPIRIT 



BIBLE





# FOLLOWING JESUS



**John 1:1, 4, 9** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was **life**, and the life was the **light** of all people...The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

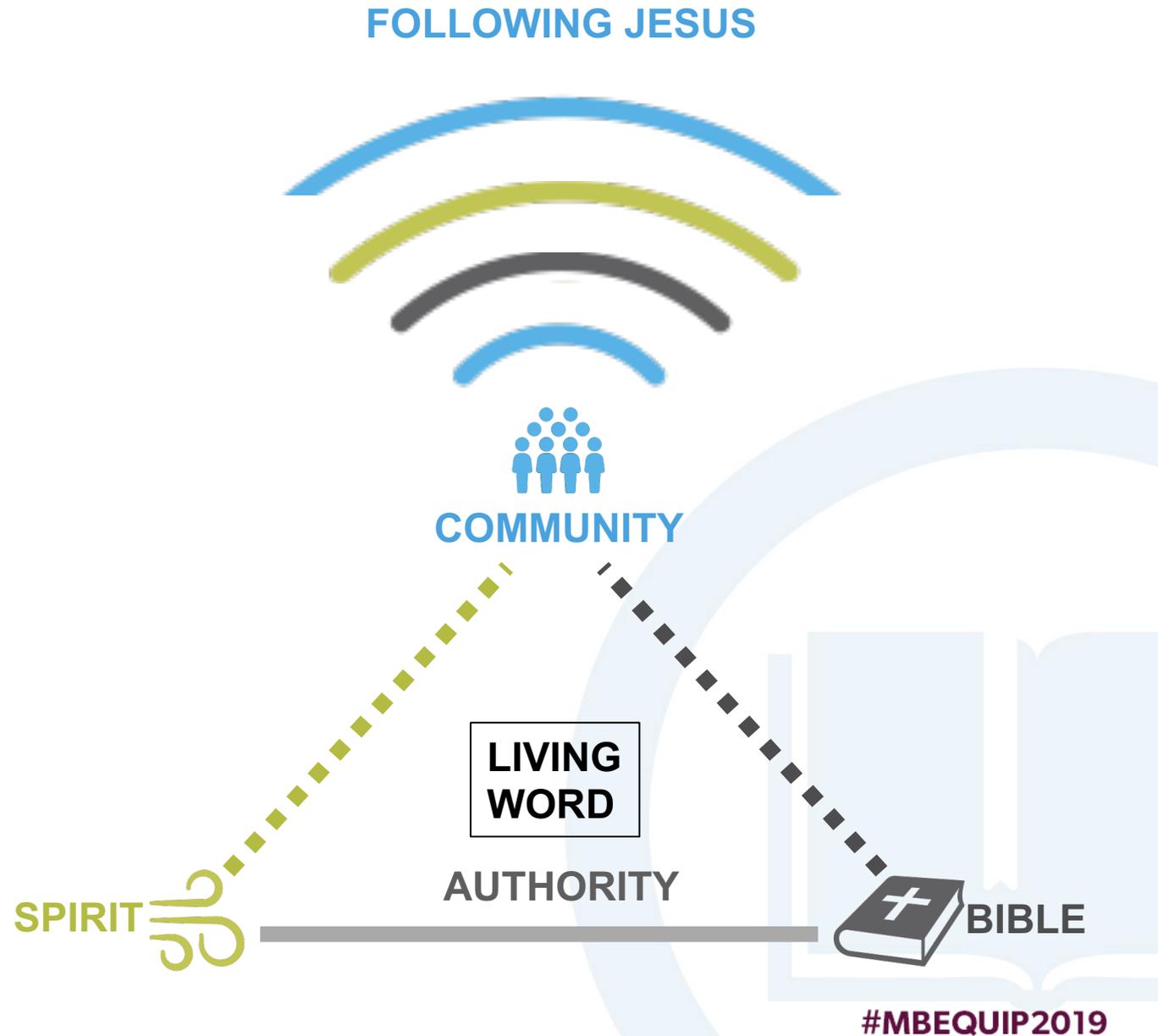


*Hebrews 1:1-3 - Long ago **God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets**, but in these last days **he has spoken to us by a Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.*

*John 1:14, 18 - And the **Word became flesh** and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth...No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, **who has made him known**.*

## Light – Revelation

- Scripture witnesses to God's actions and words in history (Israel)
- Scripture witnesses to God's revelation in Jesus Christ



**2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...**

FOLLOWING JESUS

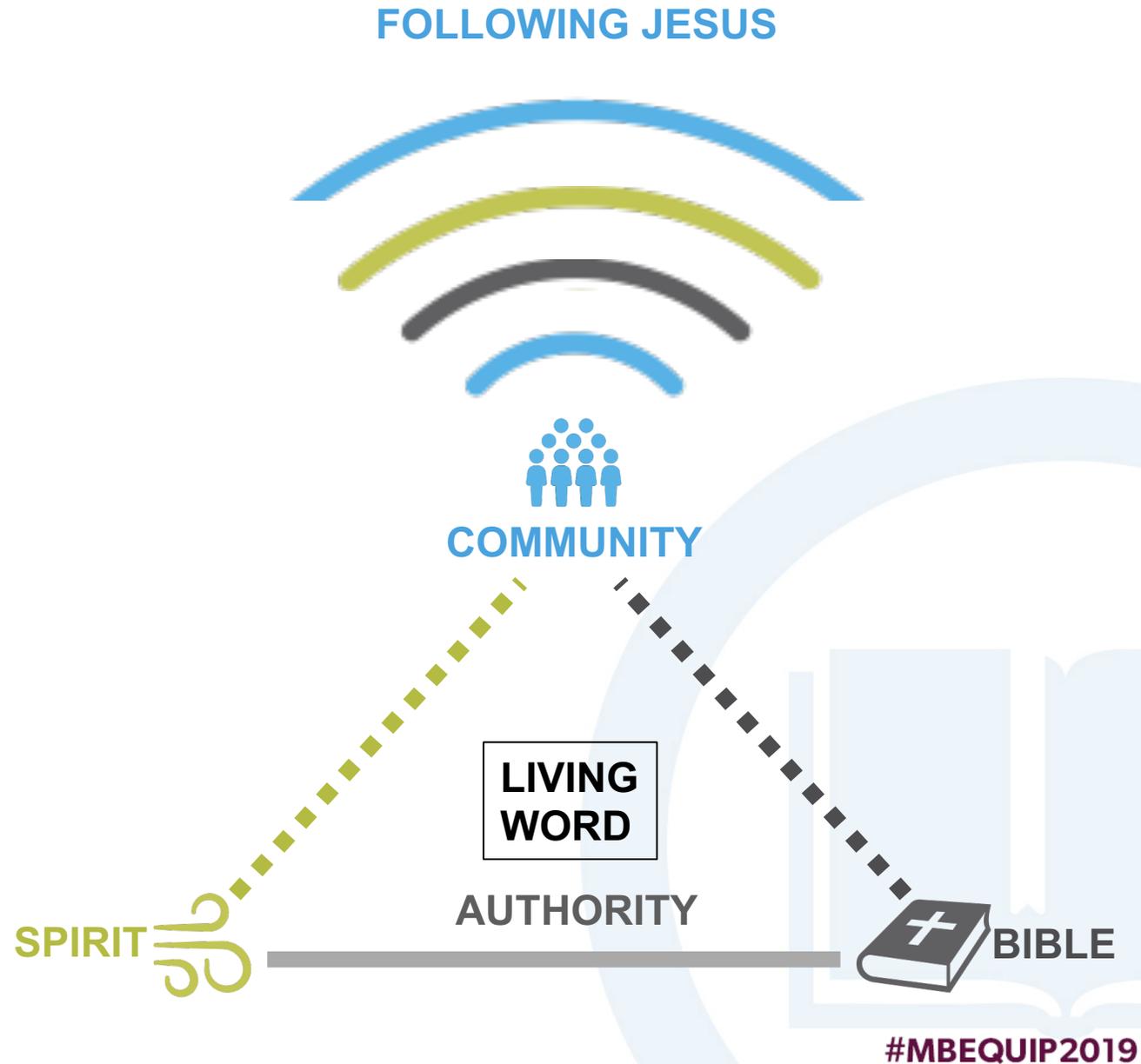


*2 Peter 1:20-21 - First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women **moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

*Hebrews 4:12 - Indeed, **the word of God is living and active,** sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

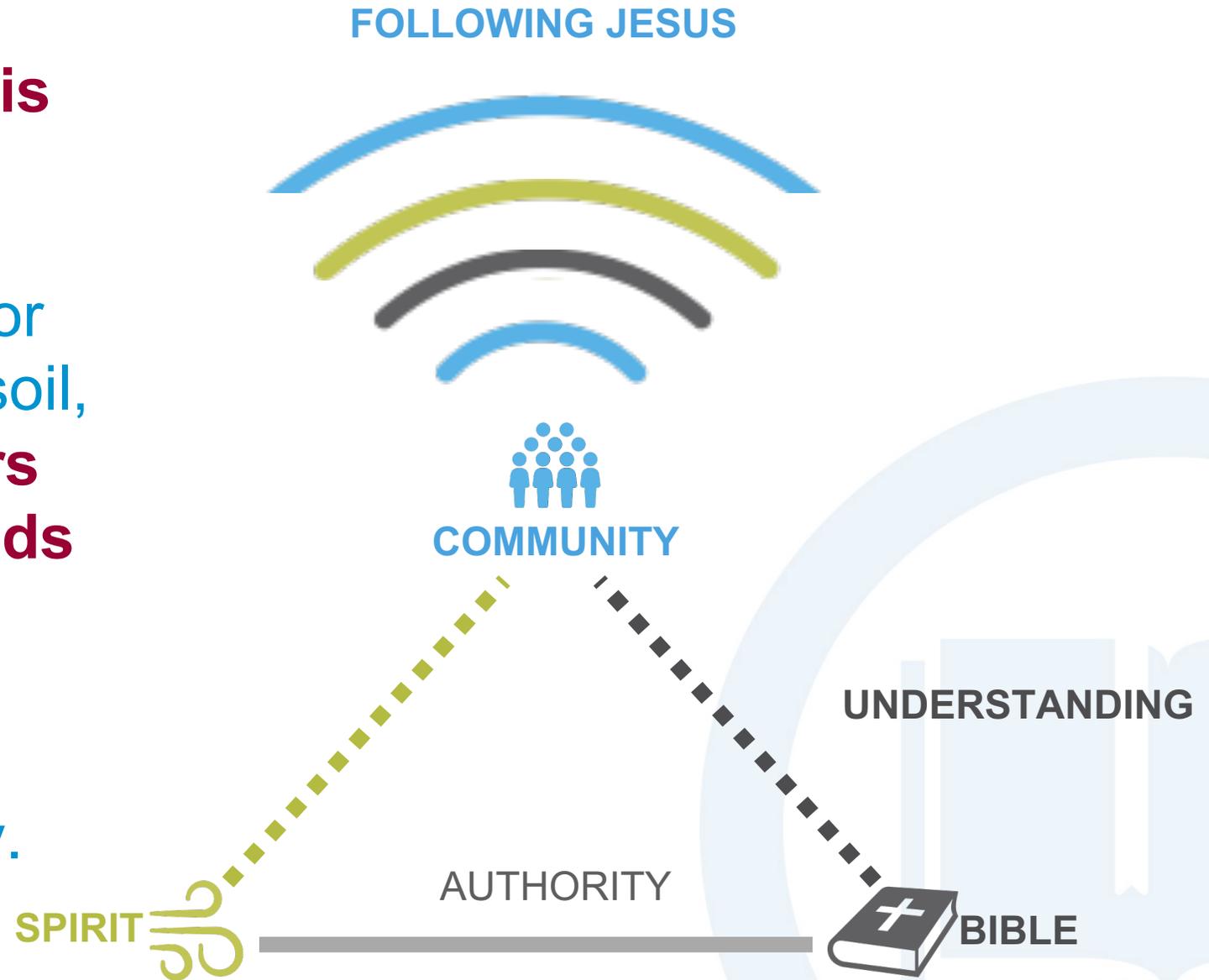
## Life – God-breathed

- Scripture is the words through which God communicates
- Scripture is the words through which God brings new life



**Luke 8:11** - Now the parable is this: The **seed is the word of God.**

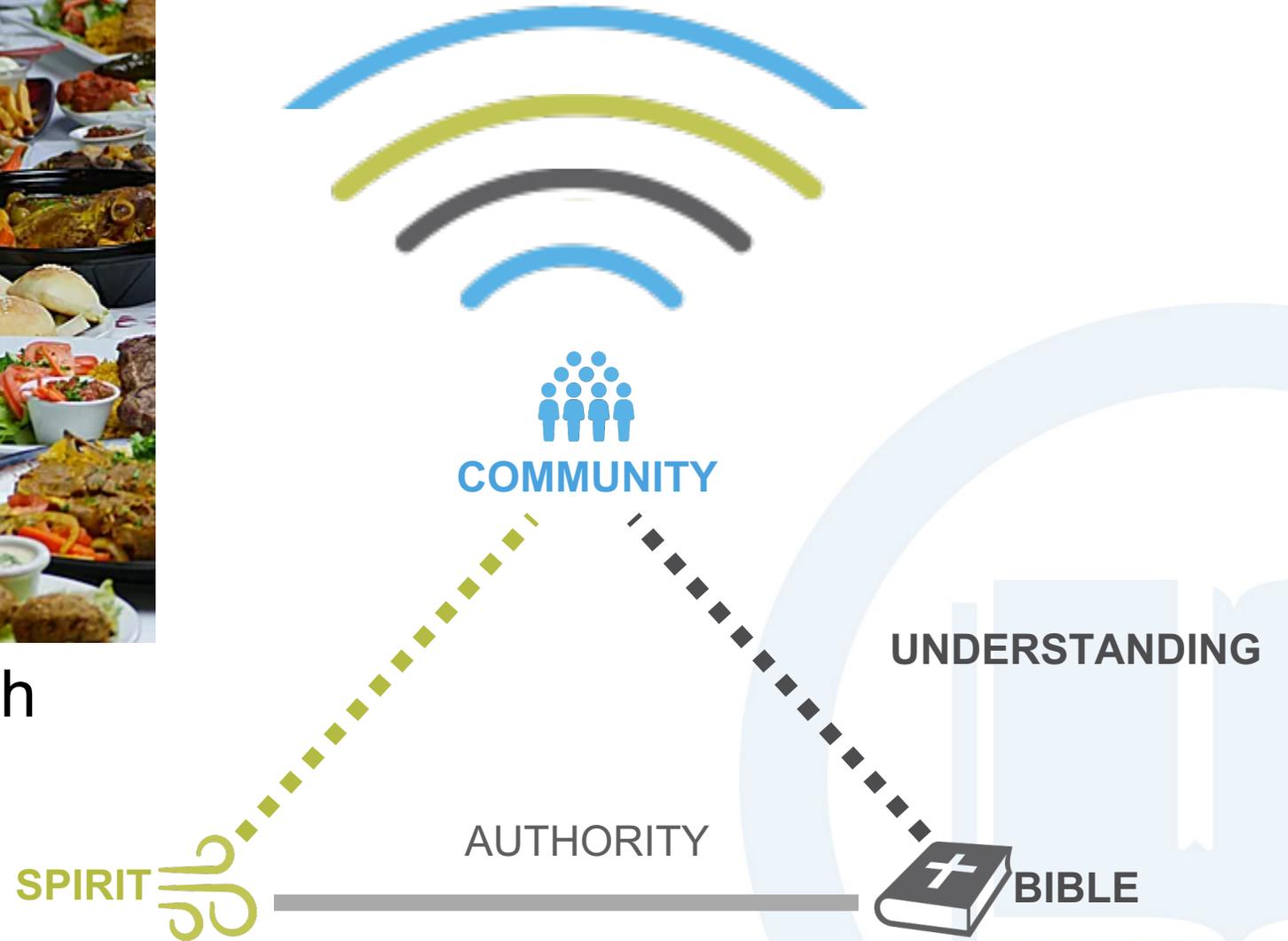
**Matthew 13:23** - But as for what was sown on good soil, **this is the one who hears the word and understands it**, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

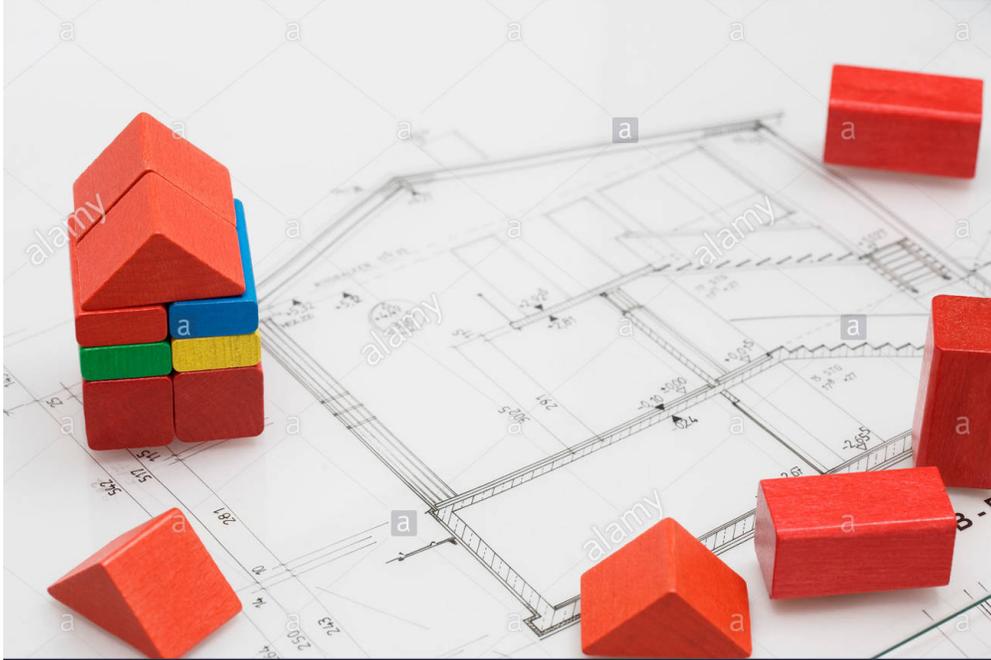




Smorgasbord Approach

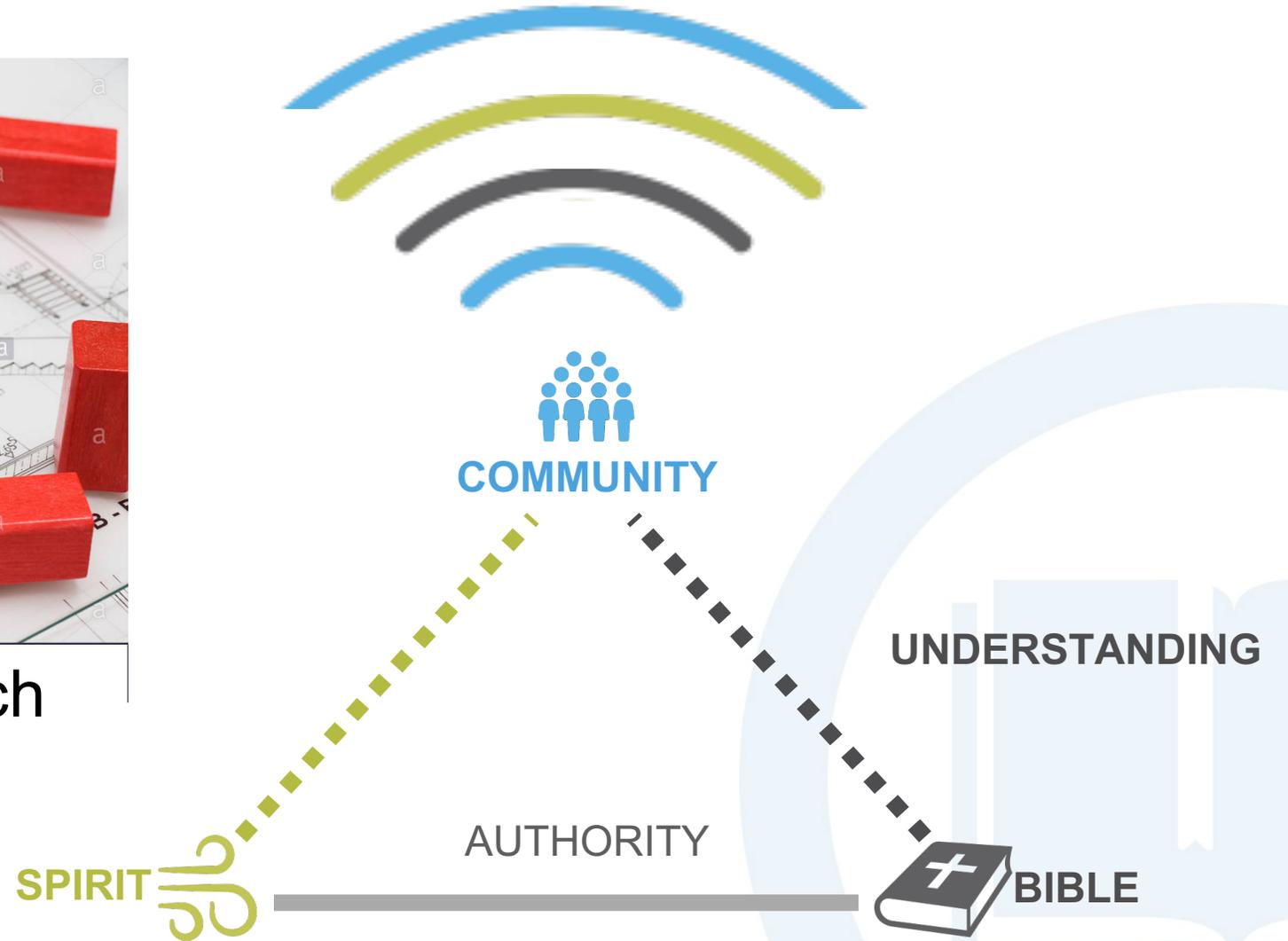
FOLLOWING JESUS





Building Block Approach

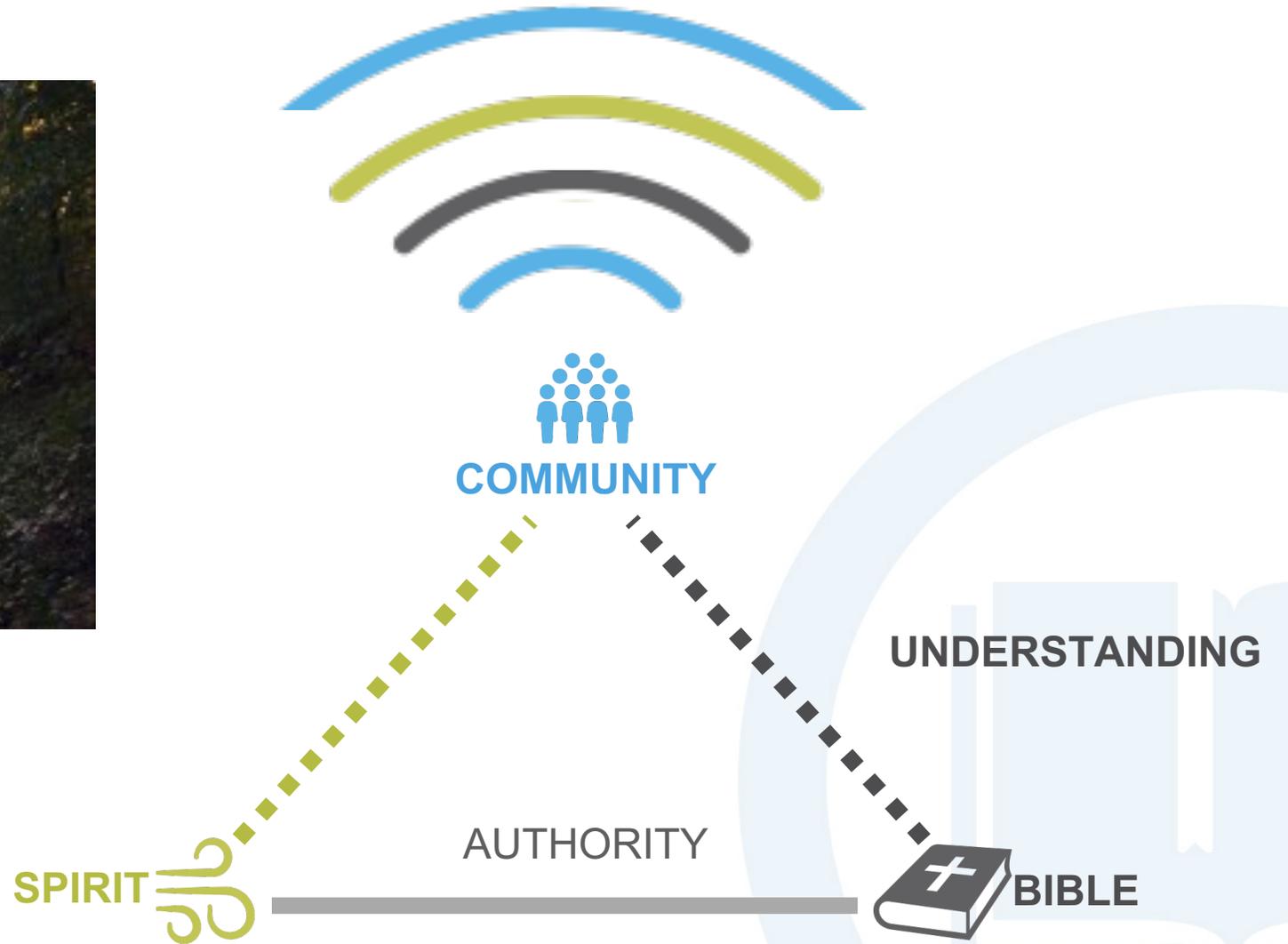
## FOLLOWING JESUS





Journey Approach

# FOLLOWING JESUS



**1 John 5:20** - *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

**Colossians 1:9-10** - *For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.*

**1 Corinthians 2:13-16** - And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them **because they are spiritually discerned.**

FOLLOWING JESUS

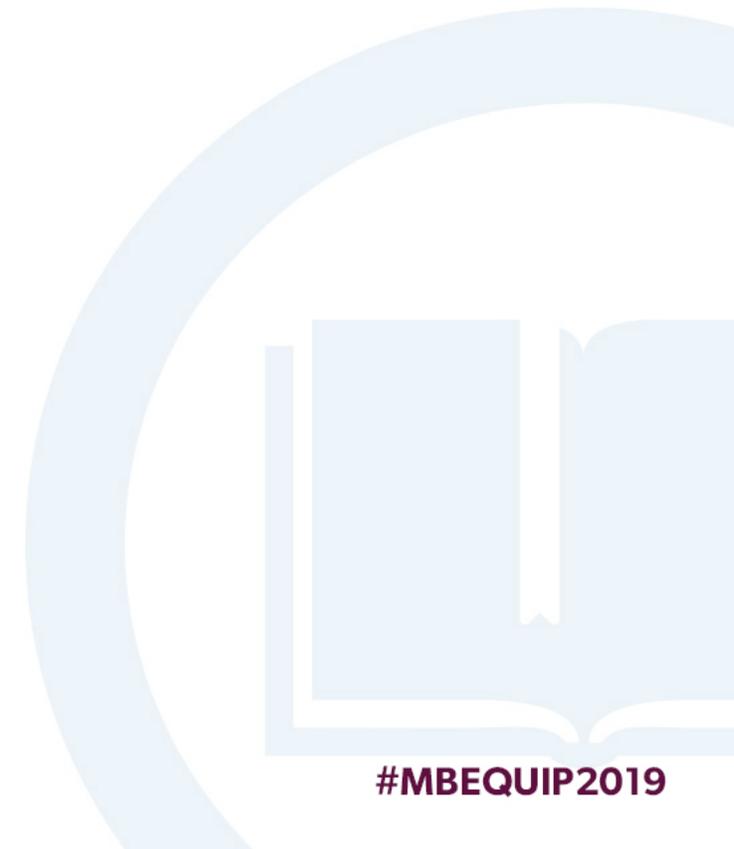


**John 16:13-14** - When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth;** for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

FOLLOWING JESUS



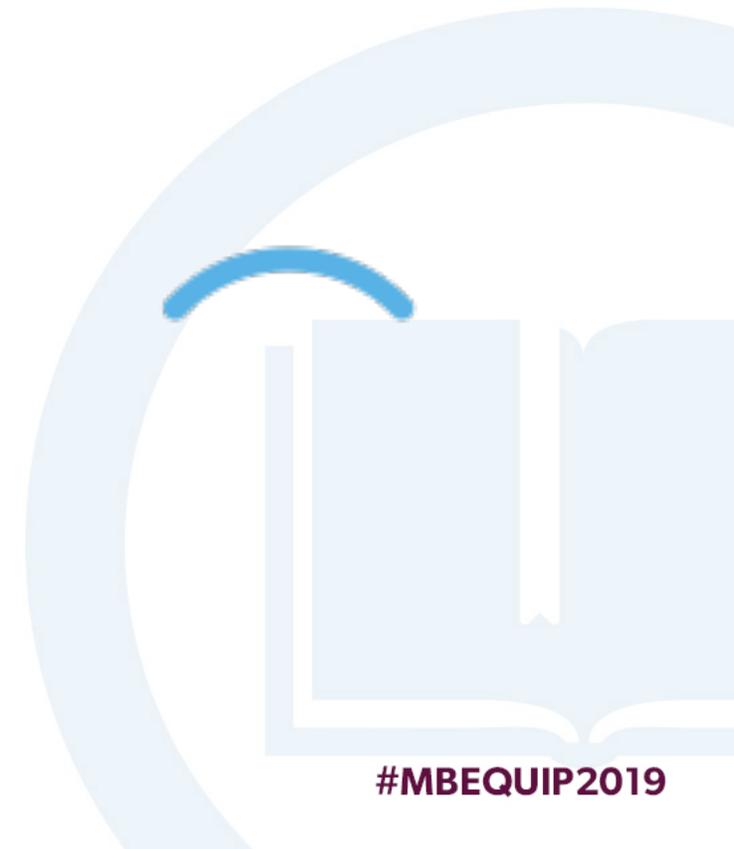
# Interpreting Scripture Today



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# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

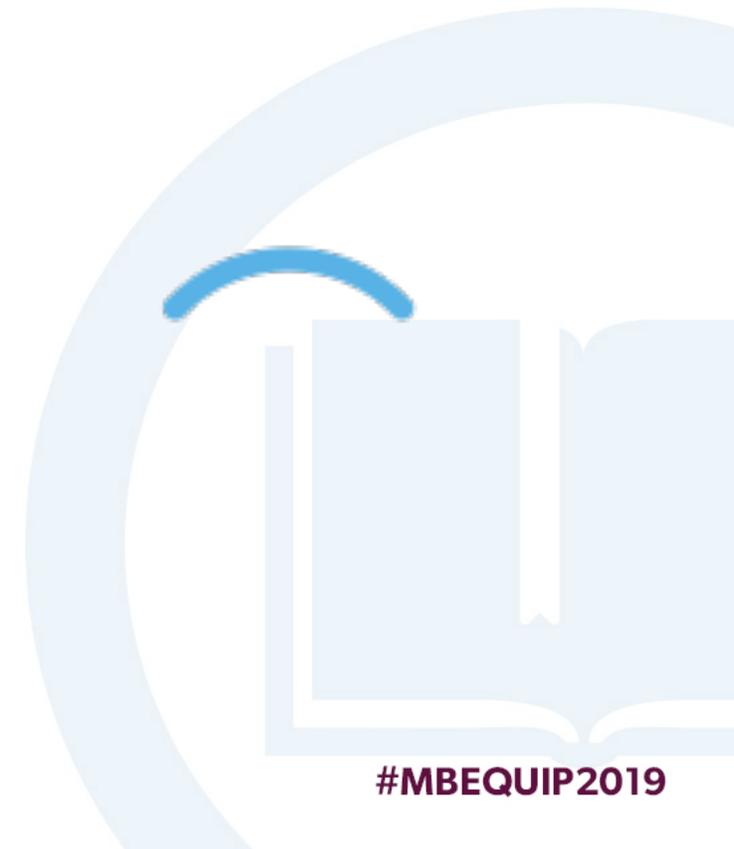


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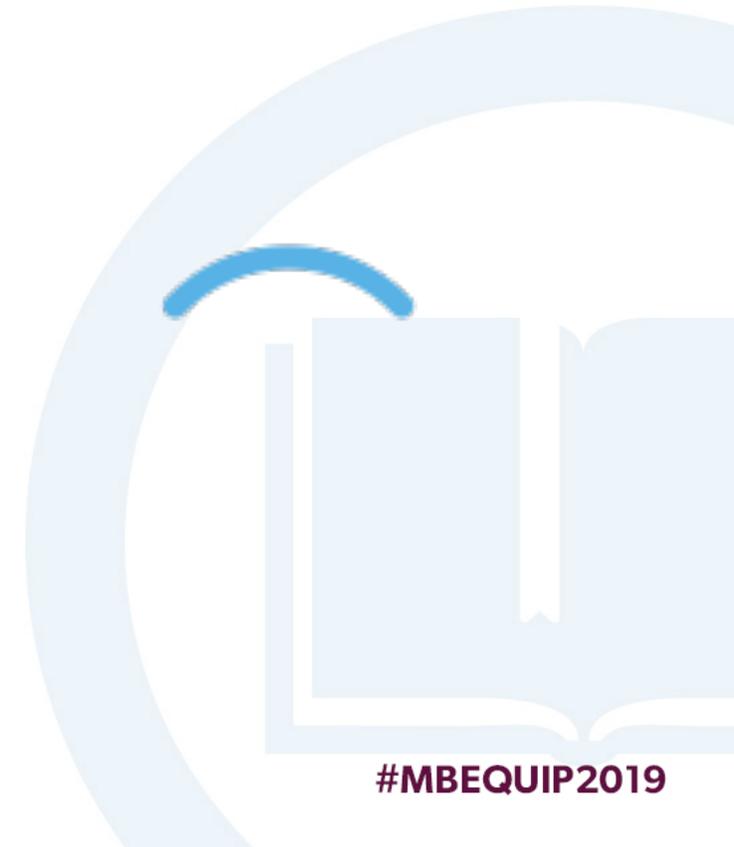
- What we bring to the text



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

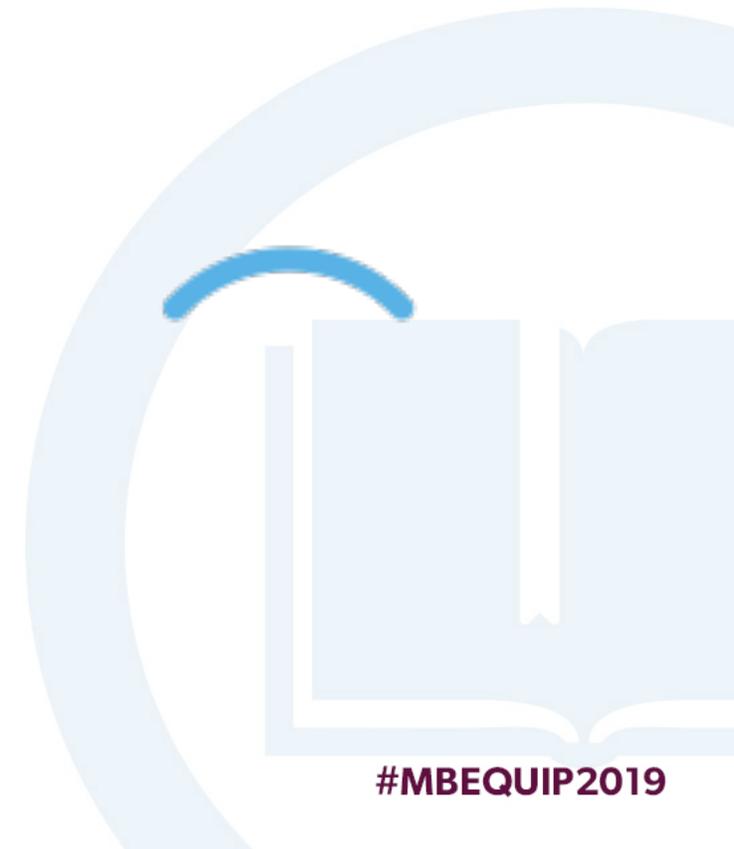
- What we bring to the text
- Our reasons for reading the text



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

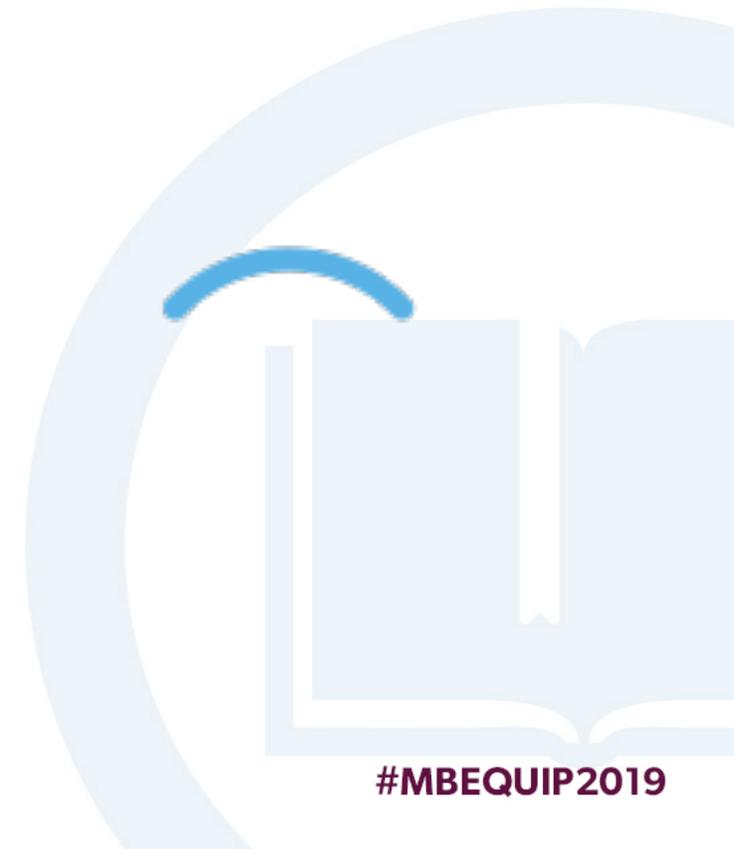
- What we bring to the text
- Our reasons for reading the text
- How we engage the text



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

- What we bring to the text
- Our reasons for reading the text
- How we engage the text
- How we respond to the text

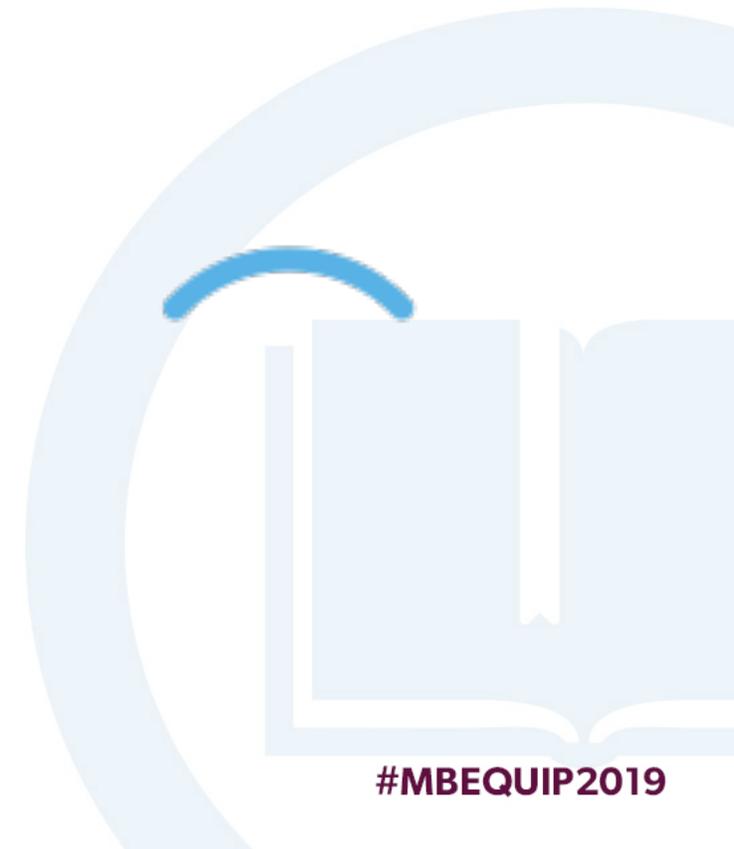


# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

- What we bring to the text
- Our reasons for reading the text
- How we engage the text
- How we respond to the text

**1. How are we posturing ourselves to be receptive to hear God speak through Scripture?**

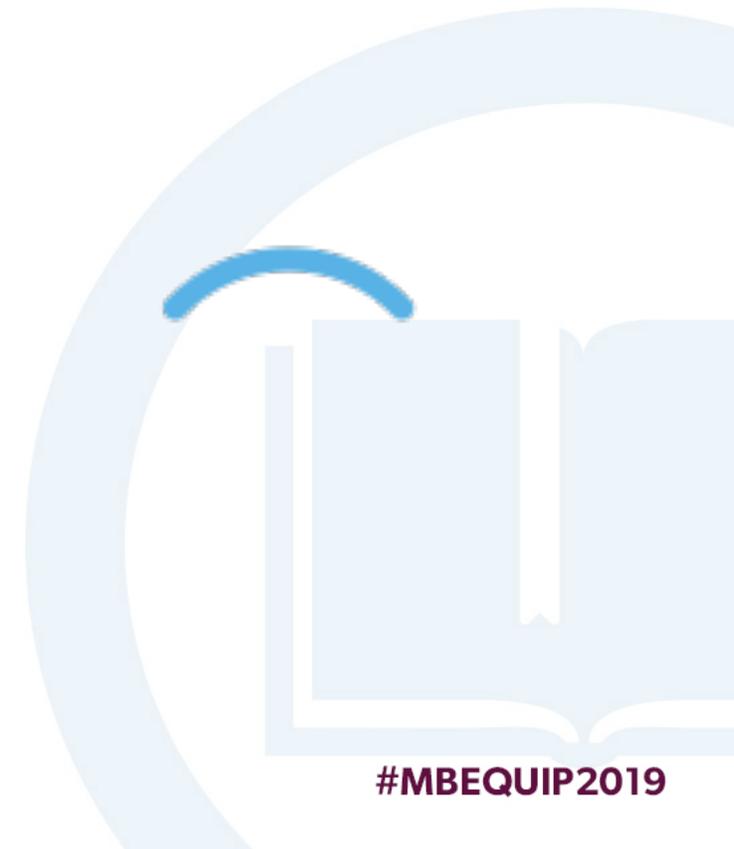


# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

- What we bring to the text
- Our reasons for reading the text
- How we engage the text
- How we respond to the text

**2. How are our own situations and experiences providing a lens for reading the Bible?**

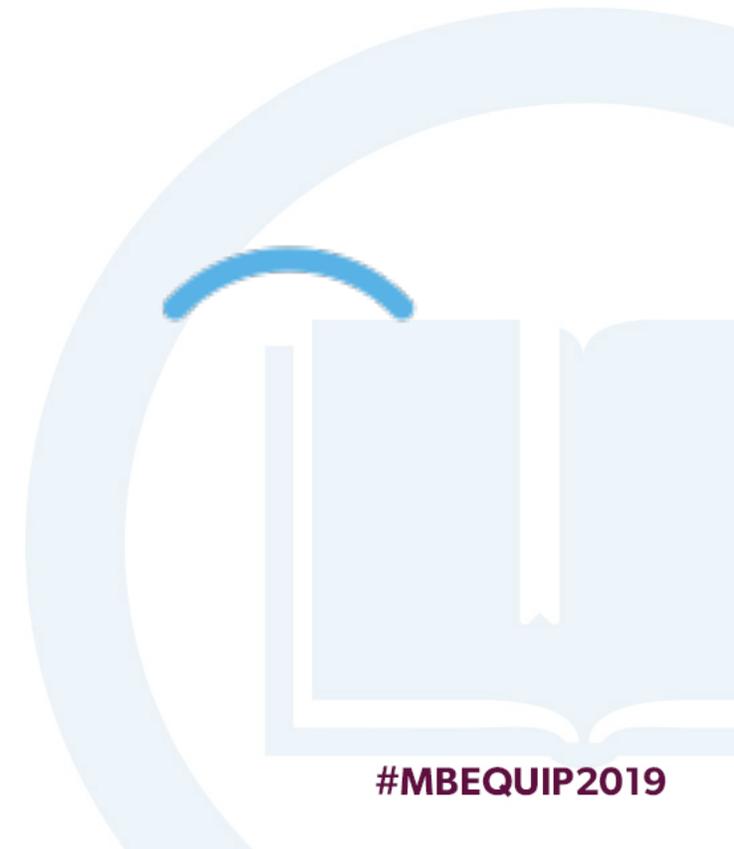


# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Posture

- What we bring to the text
- Our reasons for reading the text
- How we engage the text
- How we respond to the text

**3. How are our cultures and traditions shaping our perspectives and expectations regarding what the Bible says?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

**Interpret**



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# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Interpret

1. How is the genre of a biblical book guiding our reading?



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Interpret

1. How is the genre of a biblical book guiding our reading?
2. How are we engaging in a close reading of the biblical text?



# Interpreting Scripture Today

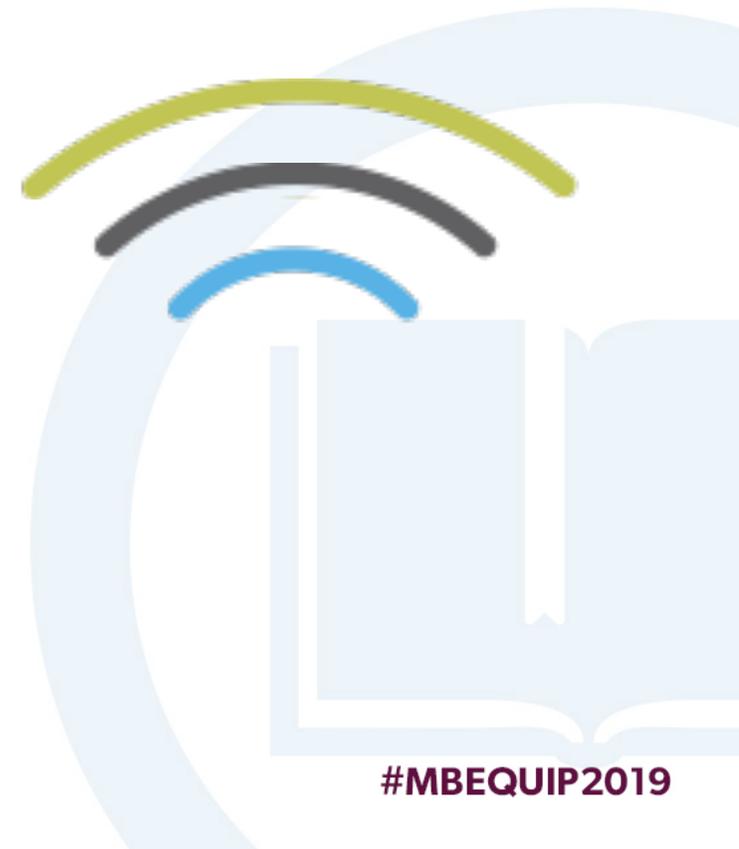
## Interpret

- 1. How is the genre of a biblical book guiding our reading?**
- 2. How are we engaging in a close reading of the biblical text?**
- 3. How is a particular text being understood within the larger biblical text?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

**Apply**

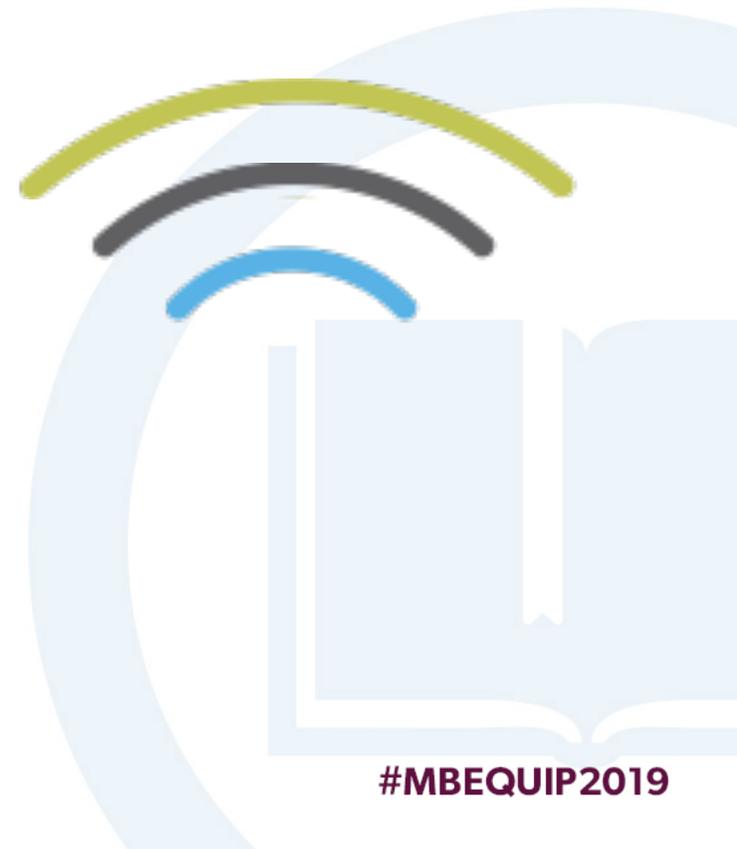


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# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Apply

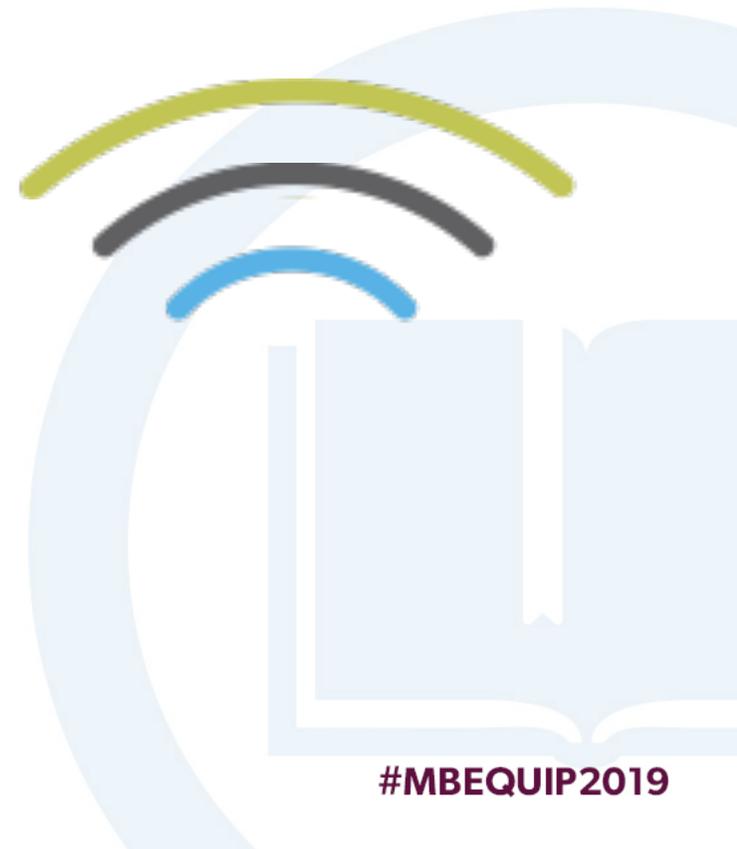
1. **How is Jesus, the Living Word, bringing clarity to the significance of the biblical text?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Apply

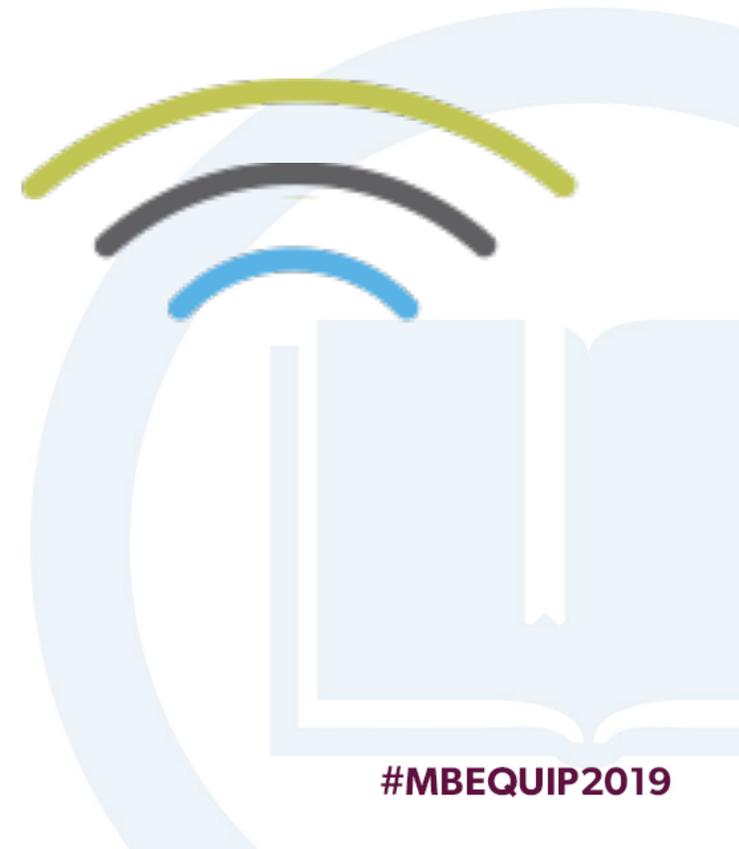
1. **How is Jesus, the Living Word, bringing clarity to the significance of the biblical text?**
2. **How are we bridging the historical and cultural distance between ourselves and the Bible?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Apply

- 1. How is Jesus, the Living Word, bringing clarity to the significance of the biblical text?**
- 2. How are we bridging the historical and cultural distance between ourselves and the Bible?**
- 3. How is the Spirit guiding the community in its discernment and application of the Bible's message?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

Live



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Live

1. **How are we faithfully following Jesus as his disciples and obeying his commands?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Live

1. **How are we faithfully following Jesus as his disciples and obeying his commands?**
2. **How is the Spirit transforming us – our character, perspectives, and values – into the image of Christ?**



# Interpreting Scripture Today

## Live

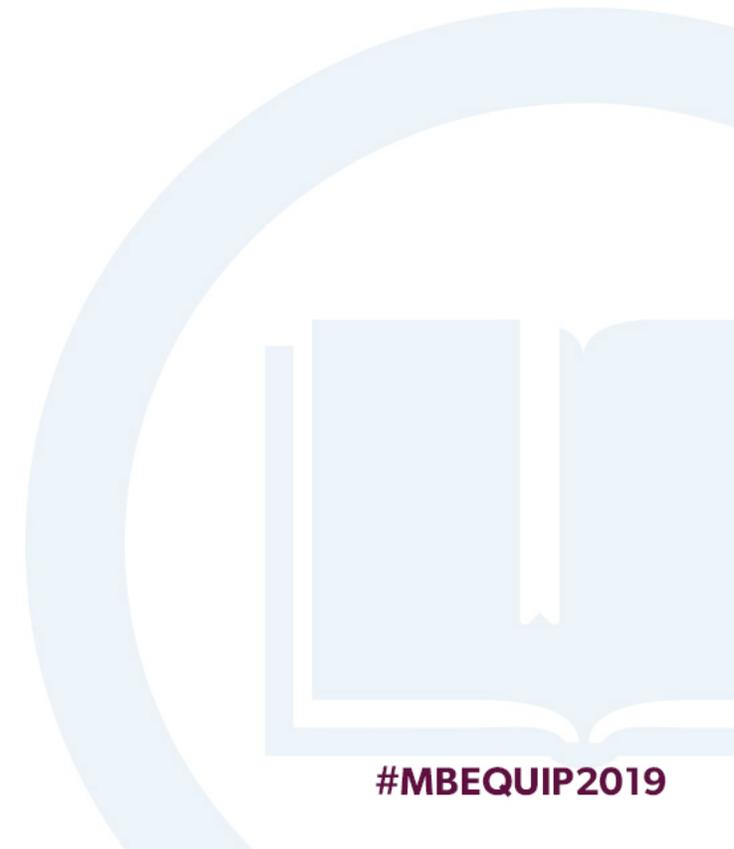
- 1. How are we faithfully following Jesus as his disciples and obeying his commands?**
- 2. How is the Spirit transforming us – our character, perspectives, and values – into the image of Christ?**
- 3. How are we putting into practice what God is saying to us through Scripture?**



# FOLLOWING JESUS



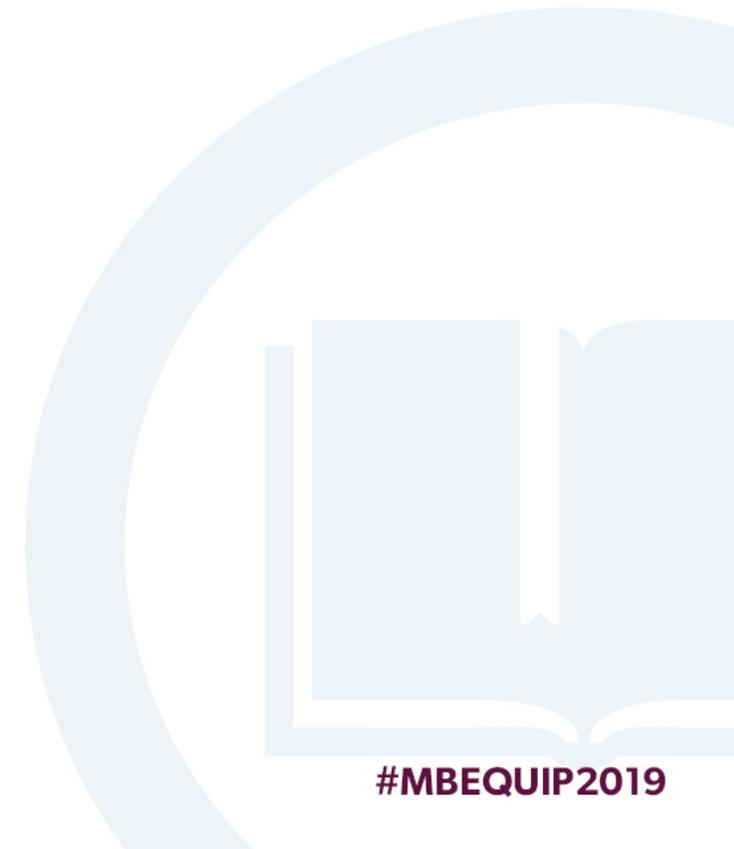
# Interpreting Scripture Today



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# Interpreting Scripture Today

**How?**

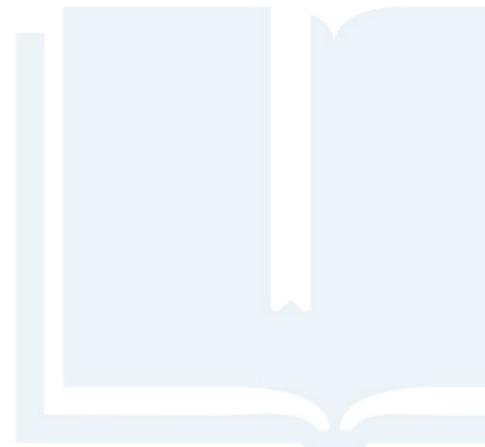


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# Interpreting Scripture Today

**How?**

**Genre**



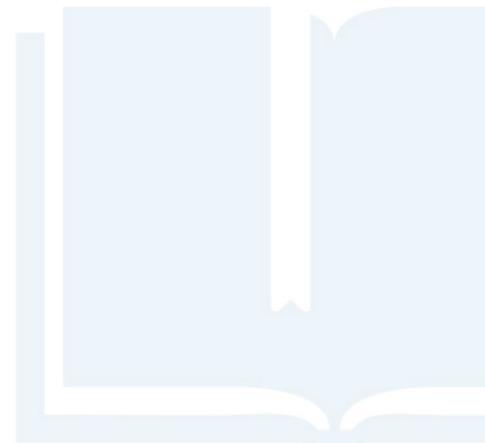
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# Interpreting Scripture Today

**How?**

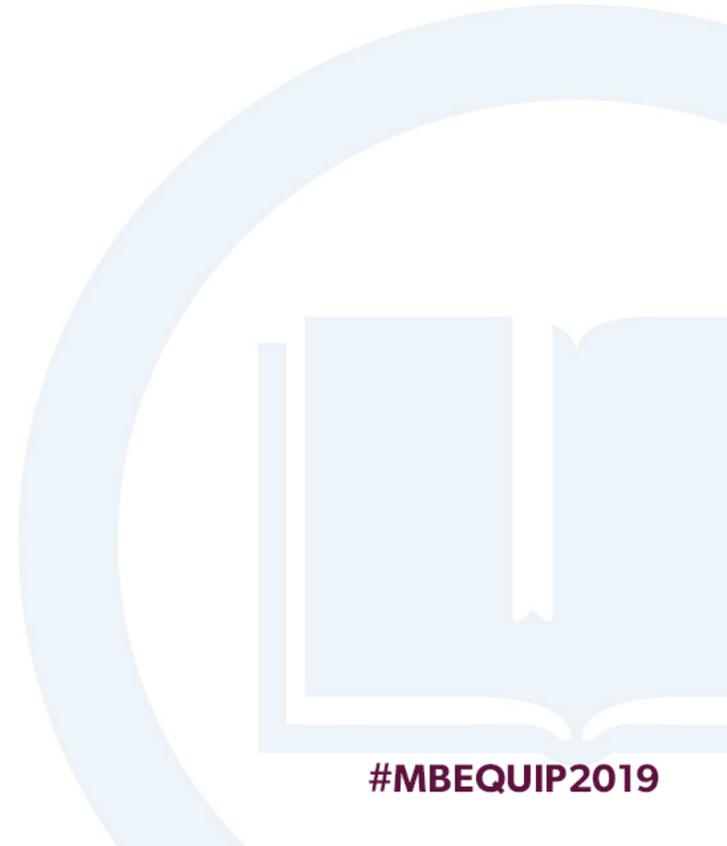
**Genre**

**Narrative | Poetry | Letters**



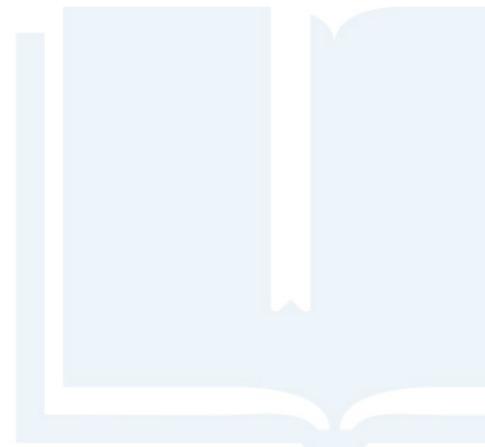
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# Introduction to Narratives



# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives communicate meaning through story**

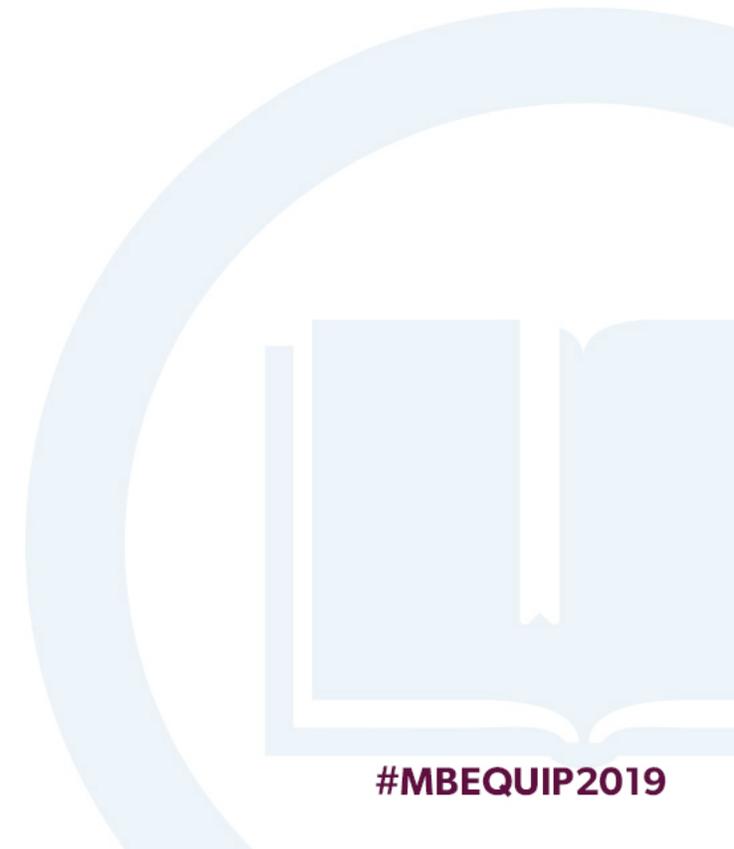


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# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives communicate meaning through story**

**Narratives use storytelling techniques**



# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives communicate meaning through story**

**Narratives use storytelling techniques**

- Repetition



# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives communicate meaning through story**

**Narratives use storytelling techniques**

- Repetition (Genesis 32-33)

32:1-22	Esau/family/possessions	36x
32:23-33	Esau/family/possessions	0x
33:1-17	Esau/family/possessions	26x

# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives communicate meaning through story**

**Narratives use storytelling techniques**

- Repetition (2 Kings 23)

19-20 incite/provoke/turn aside

21-25 Passover/written/book/judge/law

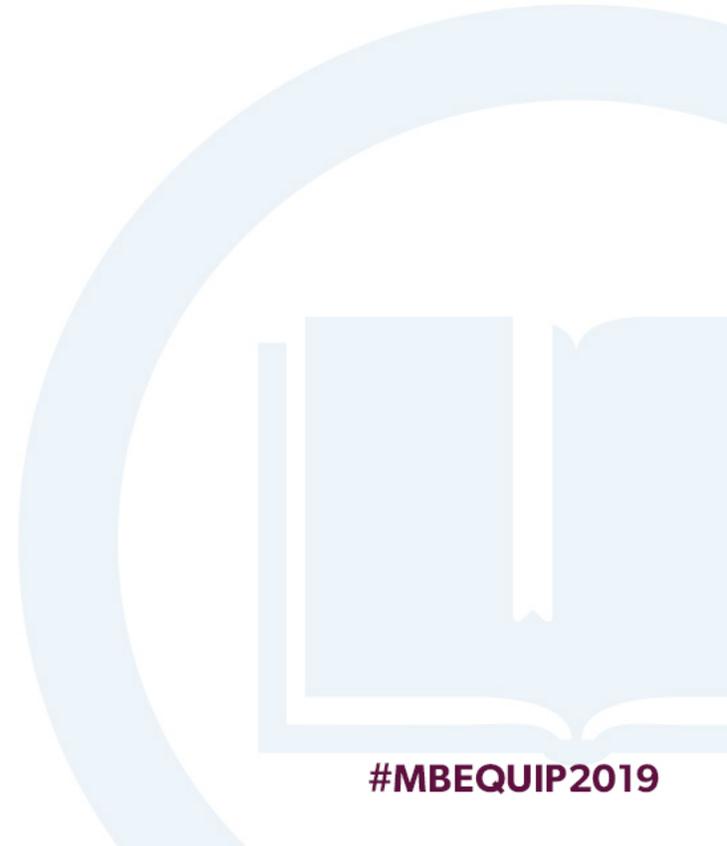
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# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives communicate meaning through story**

**Narratives use storytelling techniques**

- Repetition
- Changing names



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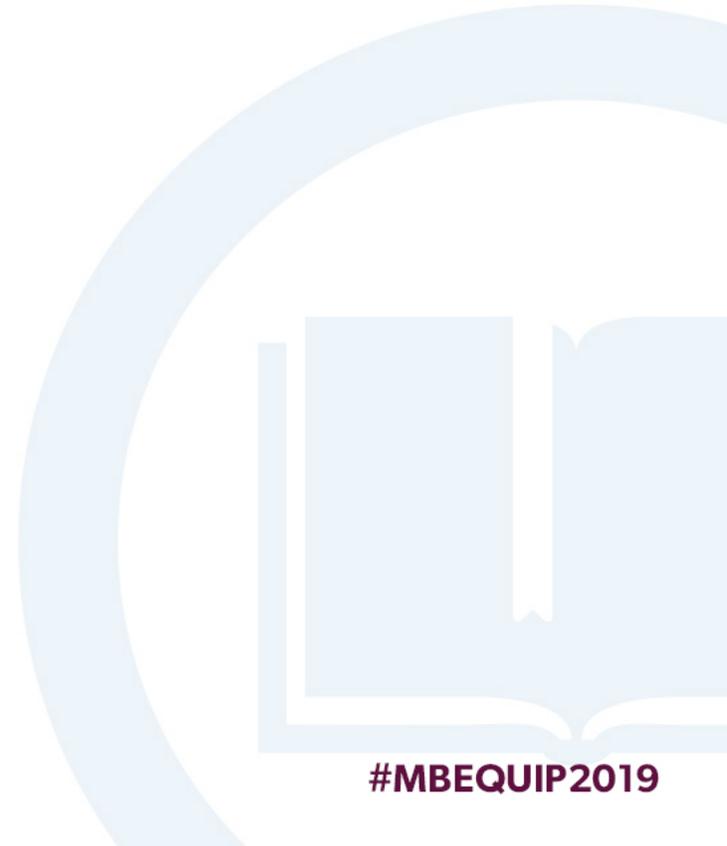
God vs LORD in Genesis 3

# Introduction to Narratives

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**Narratives use storytelling techniques**

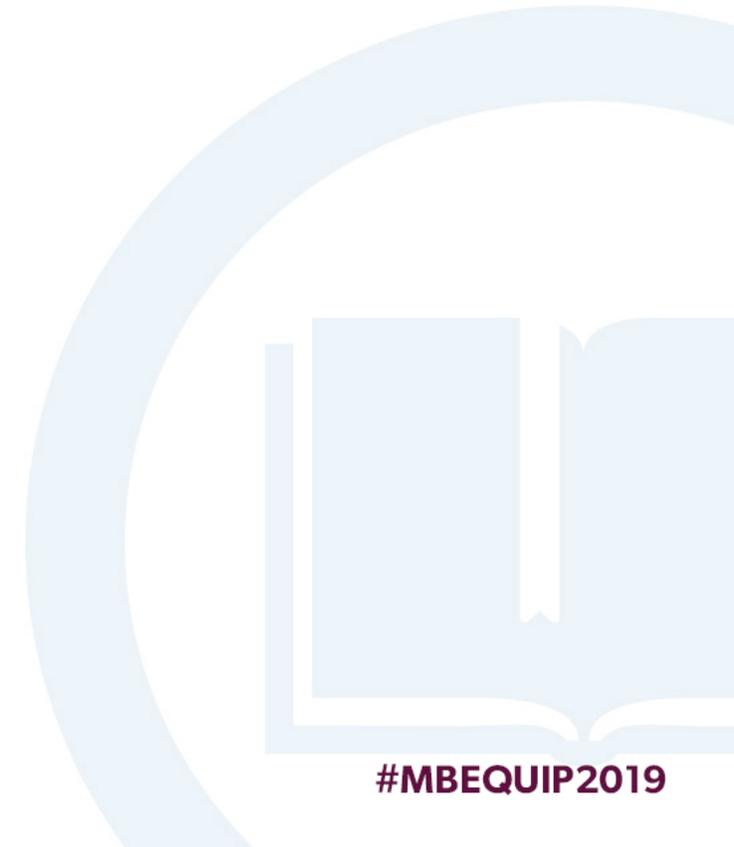
- Repetition
- Changing names
- Chiastic structures





# Introduction to Narratives

**Narratives operate at three levels**



# Introduction to Narratives

## Narratives operate at three levels

- As the individual events and people described in the story itself



# Introduction to Narratives

## Narratives operate at three levels

- As the individual events and people described in the story itself
- As part of the history of the original people of God (OT-NT)



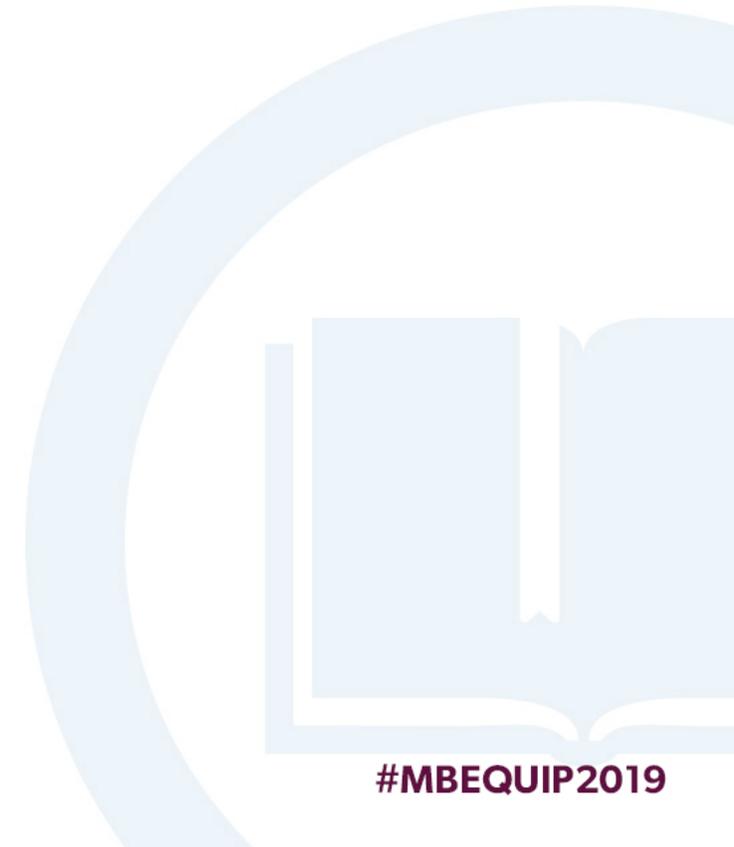
# Introduction to Narratives

## Narratives operate at three levels

- As the individual events and people described in the story itself
- As part of the history of the original people of God (OT-NT)
- As part of God's eternal and universal plan for all of humanity and creation

# Introduction to Narratives

## Seven keys for reading biblical narratives



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# Introduction to Narratives

## Seven keys for reading biblical narratives

- Read slowly and structurally



# Introduction to Narratives

## Seven keys for reading biblical narratives

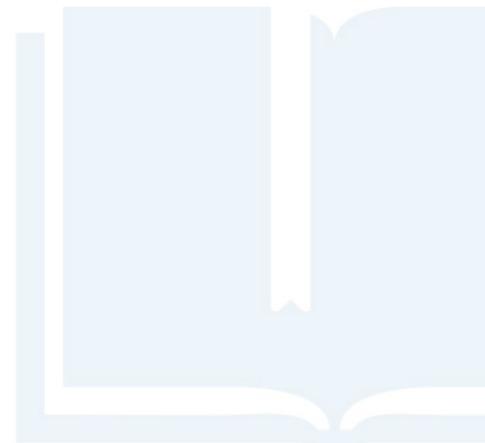
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- Narratives illustrate doctrine rather than directly teach it



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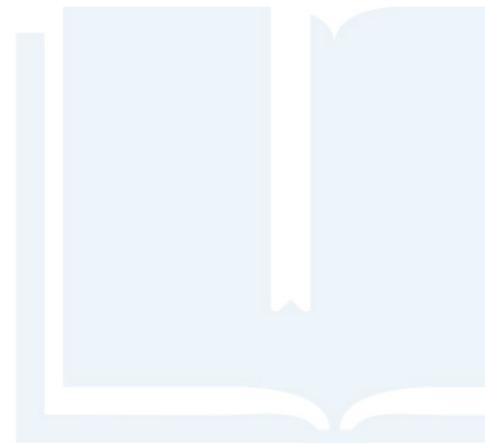
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# Introduction to Narratives

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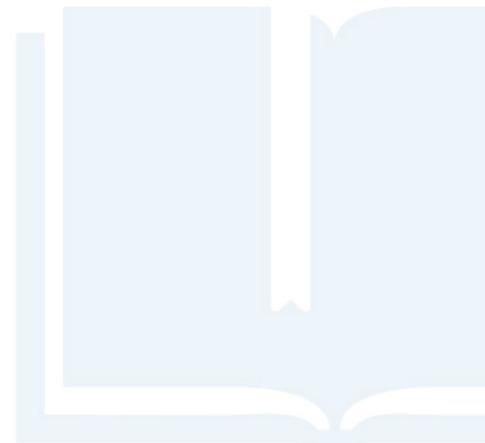


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# Introduction to Narratives

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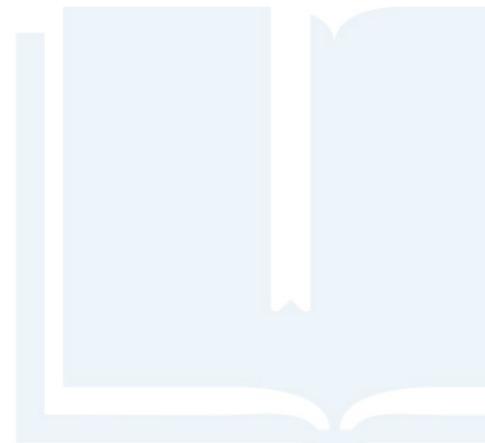
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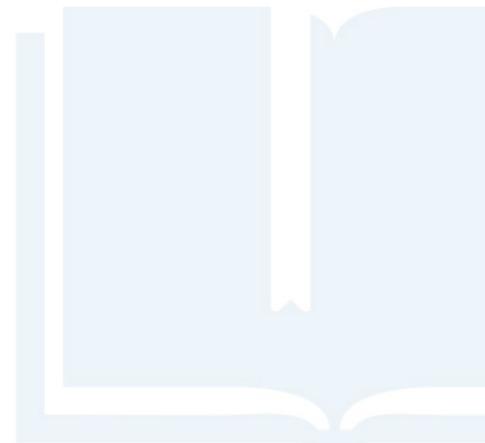
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- Narratives are selective and incomplete



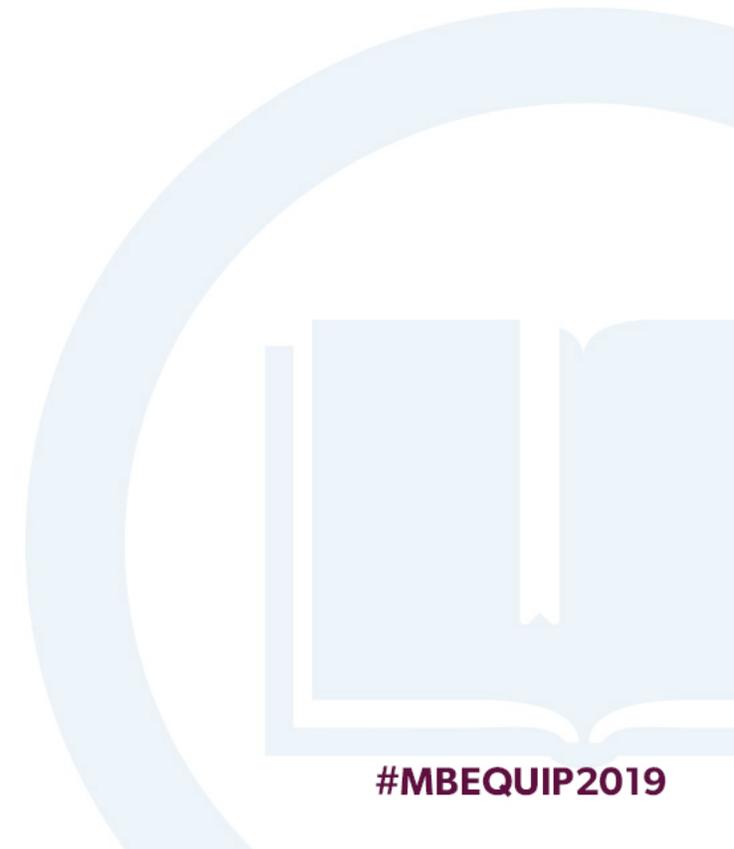
# Introduction to Narratives

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- Narratives what actually happened, not necessarily what was supposed to happen
- Many characters in the narratives are bad examples
- Narratives rarely present an analysis or moral of the story
- Narratives are selective and incomplete
- The ultimate hero of all narratives is God



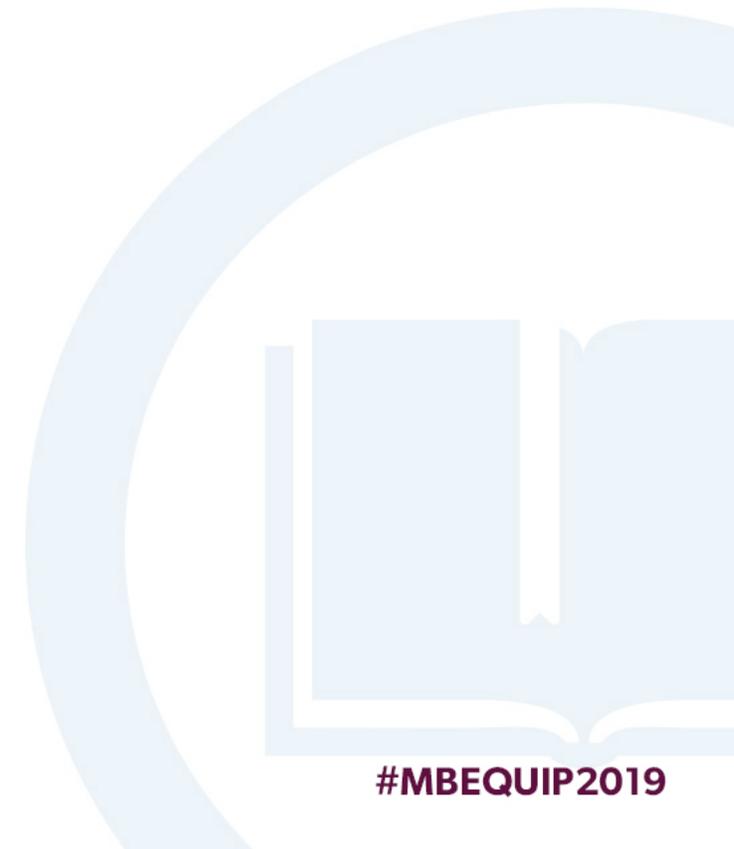
# Introduction to Poetry



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# Introduction to Poetry

## Four keys for reading poetry

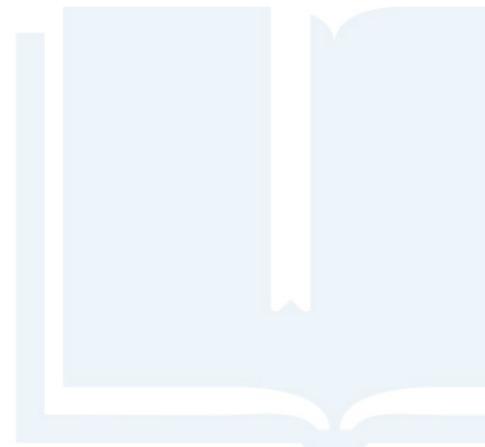


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# Introduction to Poetry

## Four keys for reading poetry

- Poetry is language of the heart

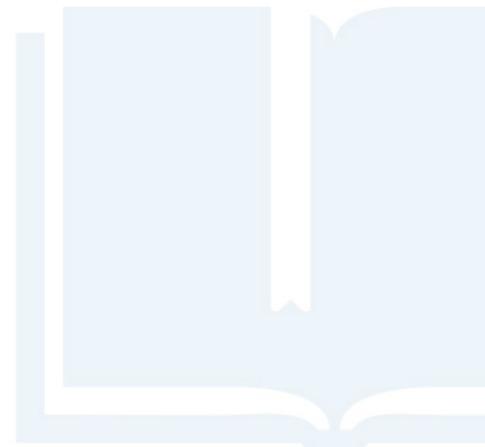


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# Introduction to Poetry

## Four keys for reading poetry

- Poetry is language of the heart
- Poetry is often metaphorical

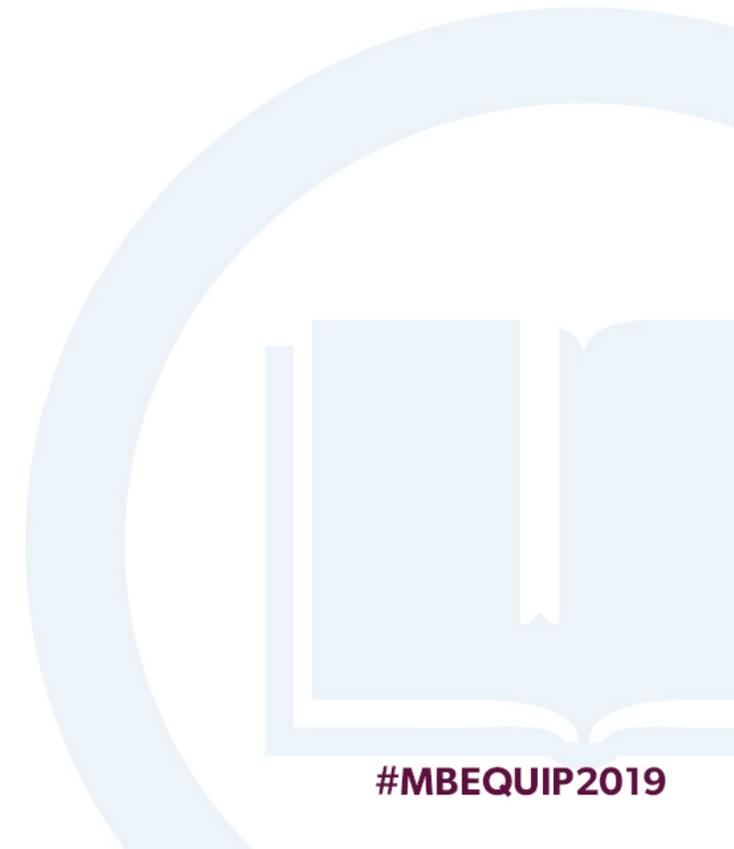


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# Introduction to Poetry

## Four keys for reading poetry

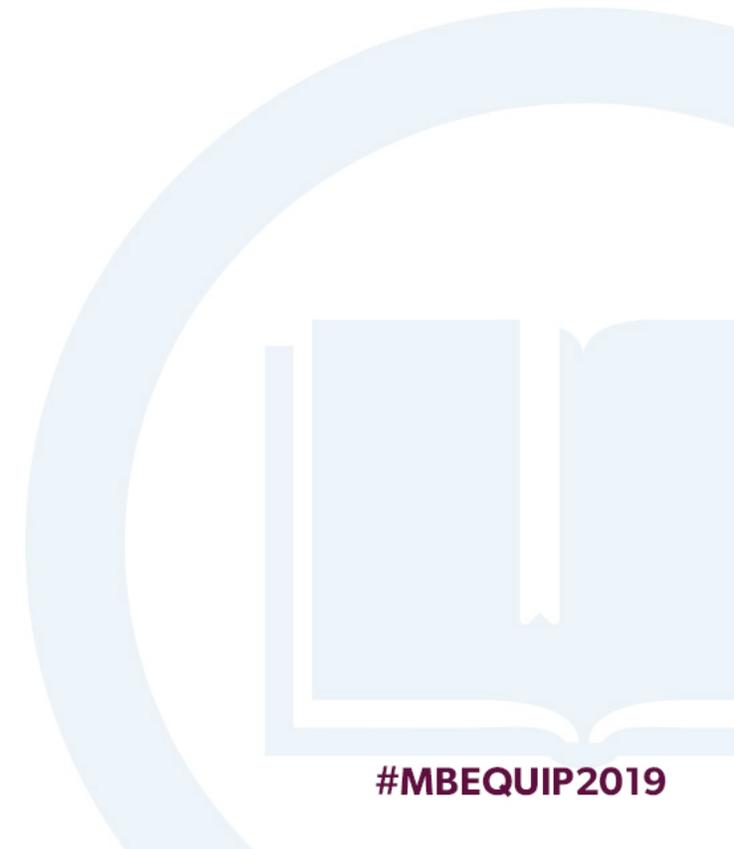
- Poetry is language of the heart
- Poetry is often metaphorical
- Poetry has unique literary patterns



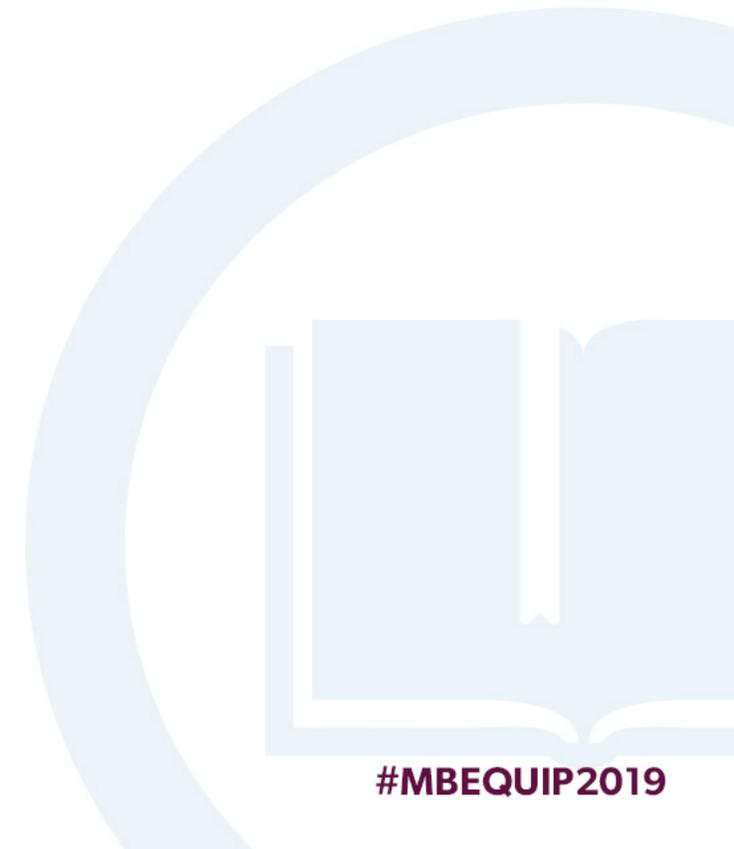
# Introduction to Poetry

## Four keys for reading poetry

- Poetry is language of the heart
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- Poetry has unique literary patterns
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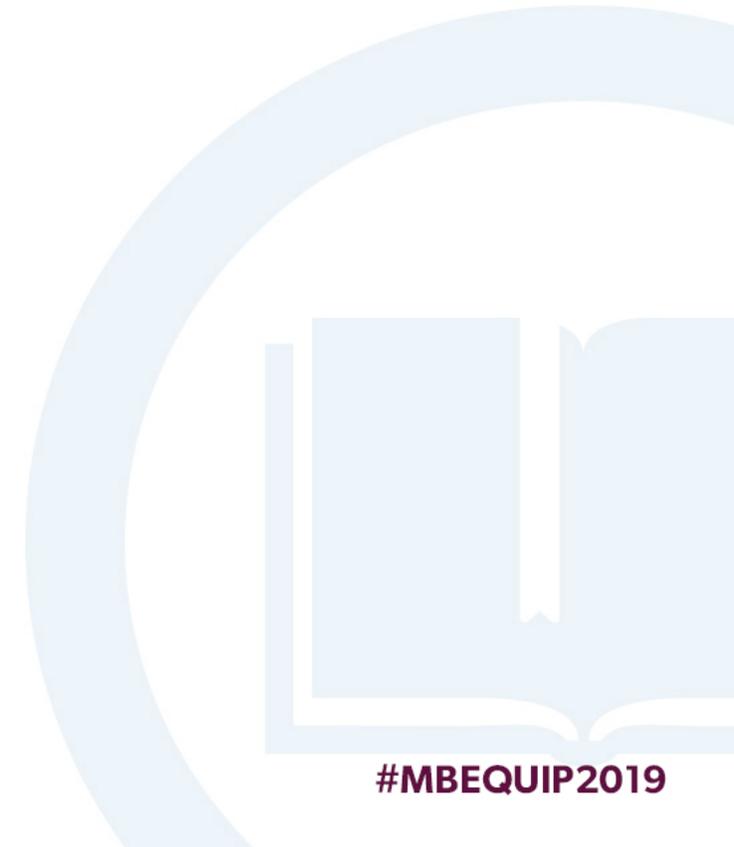
# Introduction to the NT Letters



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# Introduction to the NT Letters

## Five keys for reading the NT Letters



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# Introduction to the NT Letters

## Five keys for reading the NT Letters

- They are occasional documents

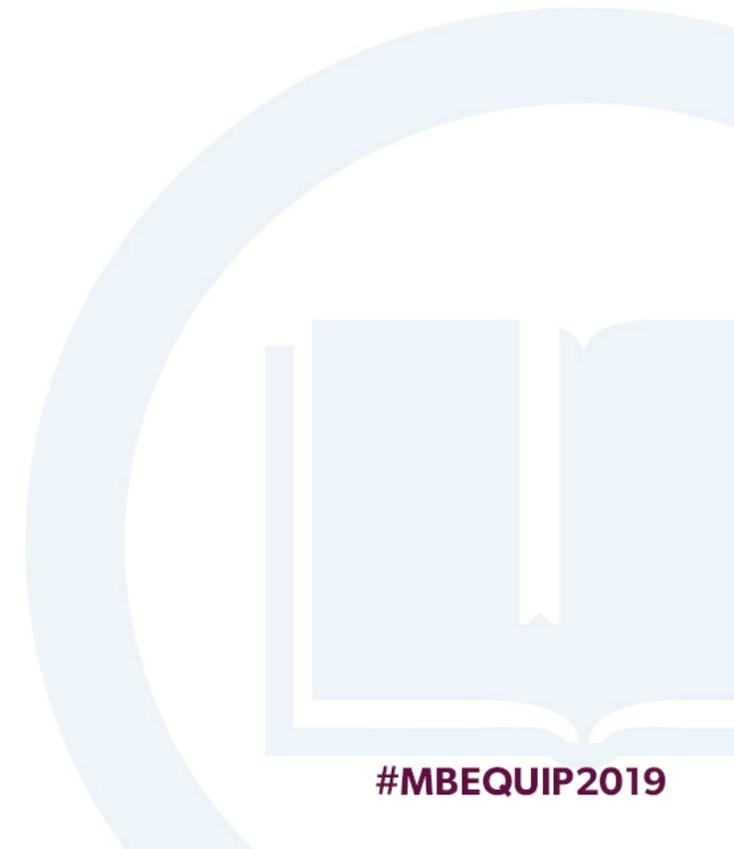


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# Introduction to the NT Letters

## Five keys for reading the NT Letters

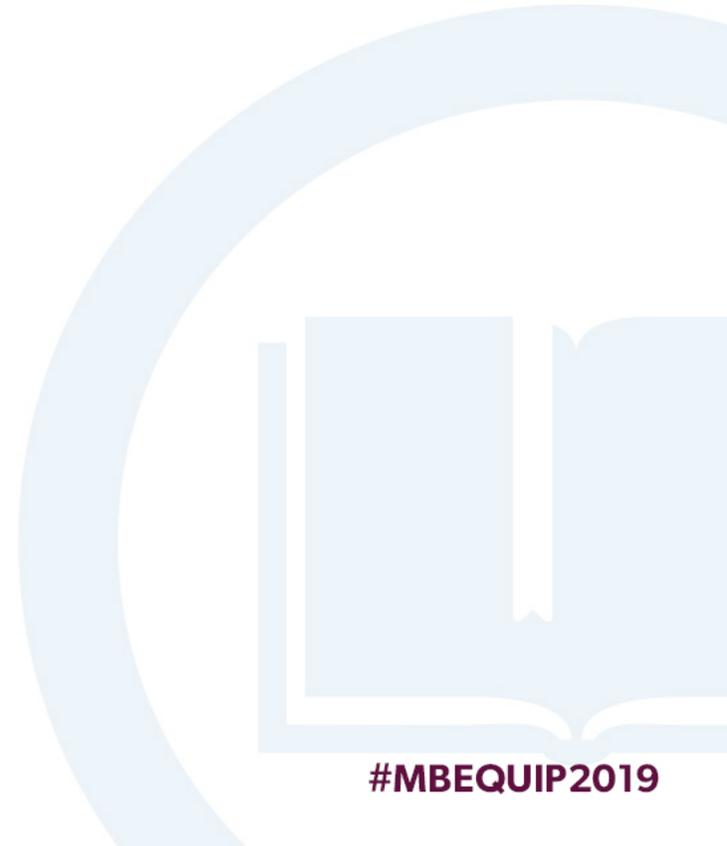
- They are occasional documents
- They are selective documents



# Introduction to the NT Letters

## Five keys for reading the NT Letters

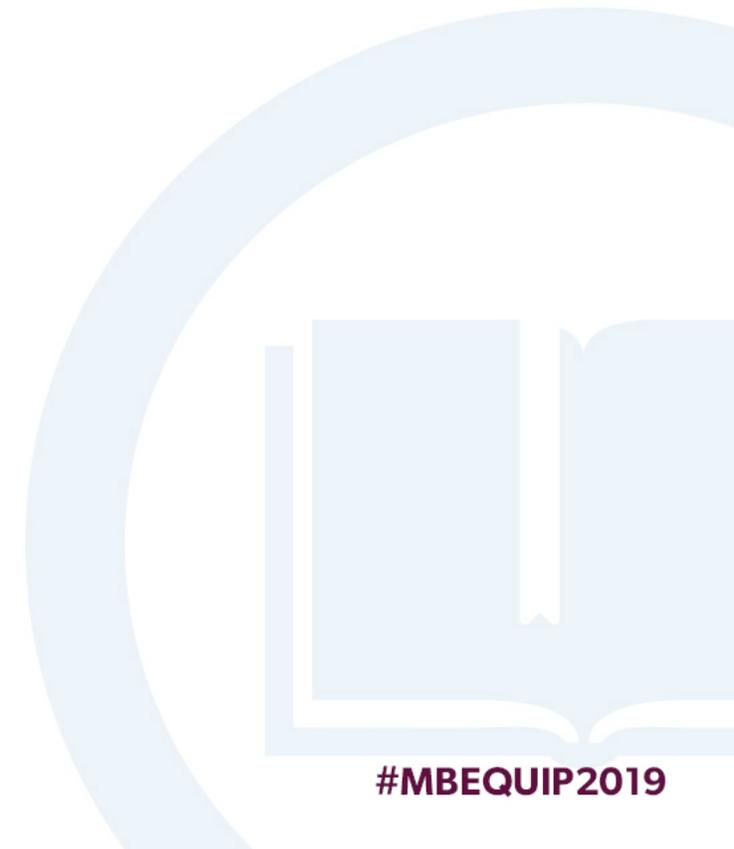
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# Introduction to the NT Letters

## Five keys for reading the NT Letters

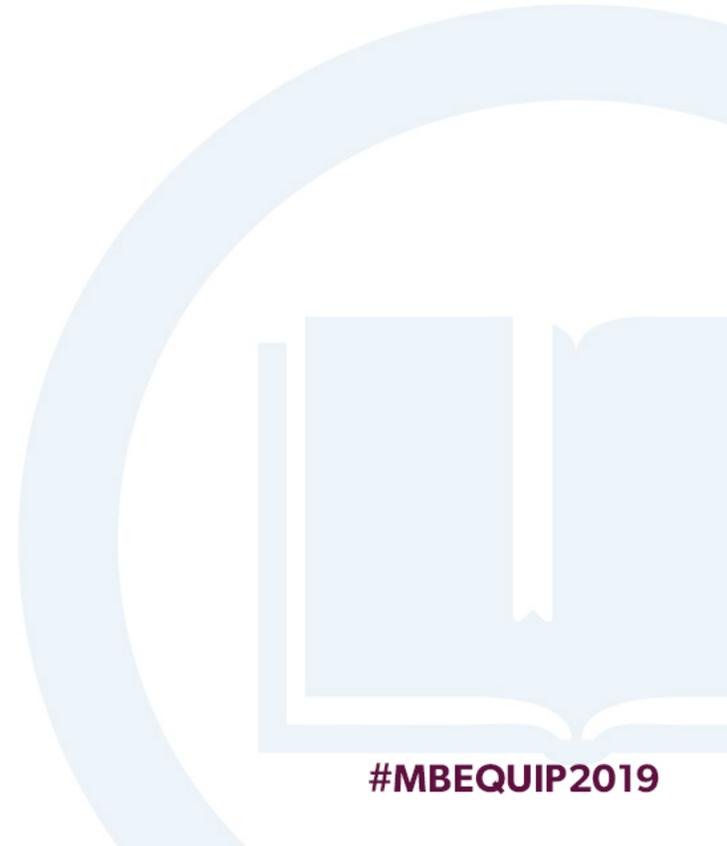
- They are occasional documents
- They are selective documents
- They are complete documents
- They are structured documents



# Introduction to the NT Letters

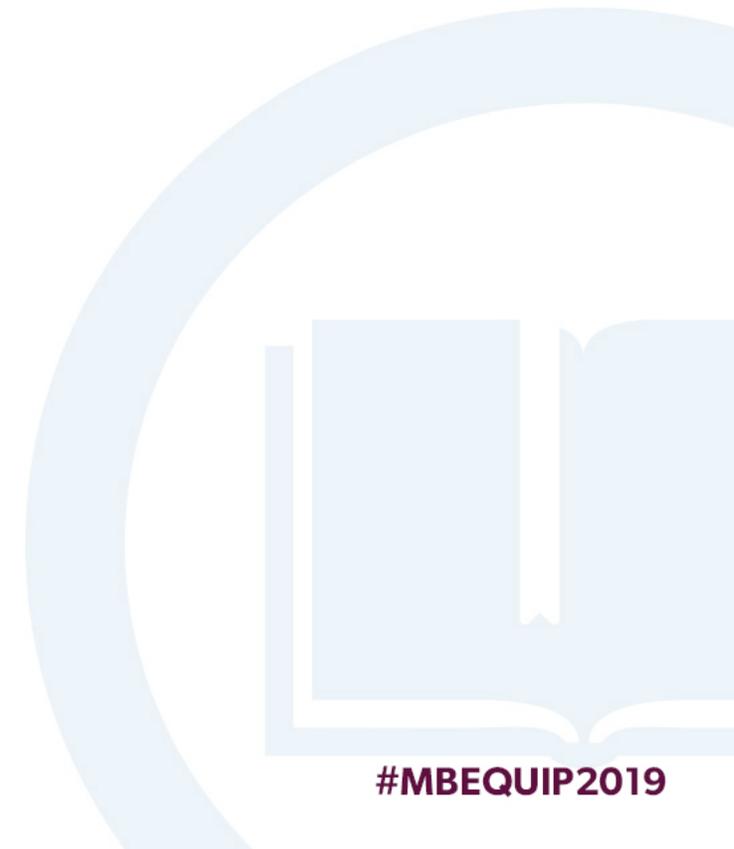
## Five keys for reading the NT Letters

- They are occasional documents
- They are selective documents
- They are complete documents
- They are structured documents
- They have a timeless meaning



# Genesis 22

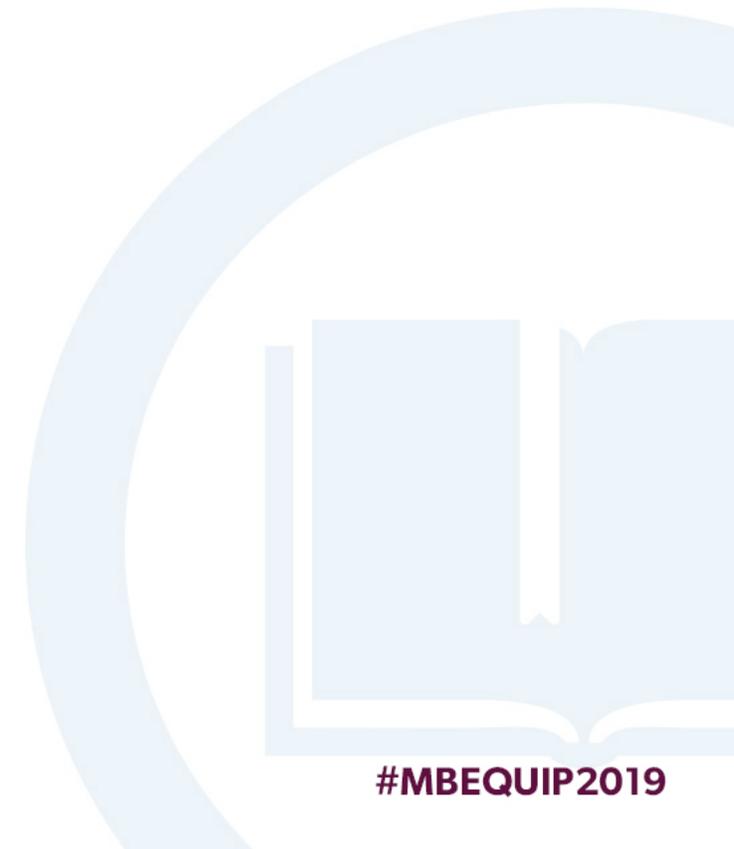
## Posture



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# Genesis 22

## Interpret



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## Interpret

- “Here I am” (vv 1, 7, 11)

# Genesis 22

## Interpret

- “Here I am” (vv 1, 7, 11)
- Name change

## Interpret

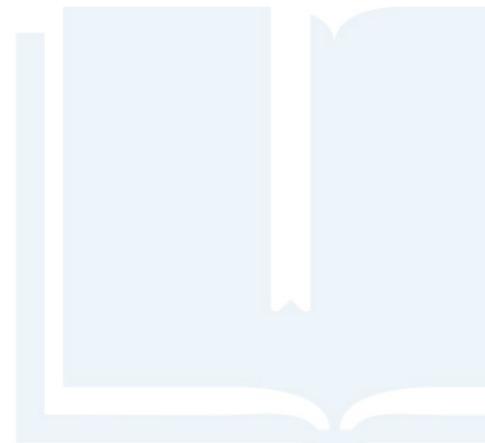
- “Here I am” (vv 1, 7, 11)
- Name change
- Three levels:

## Interpret

- “Here I am” (vv 1, 7, 11)
- Name change
- Three levels:
  - Abraham was immediately responsive

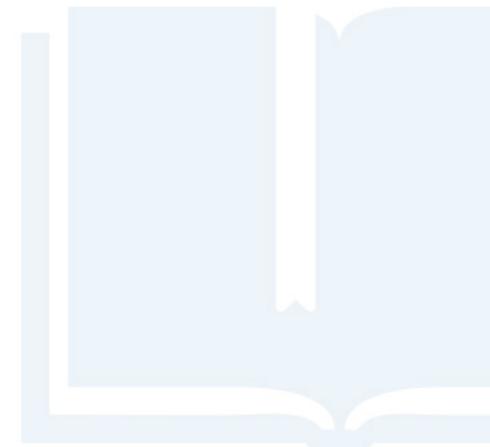
## Interpret

- “Here I am” (vv 1, 7, 11)
- Name change
- Three levels:
  - Abraham was immediately responsive
  - The LORD’s first steps in fulfilling his promise to provide a land



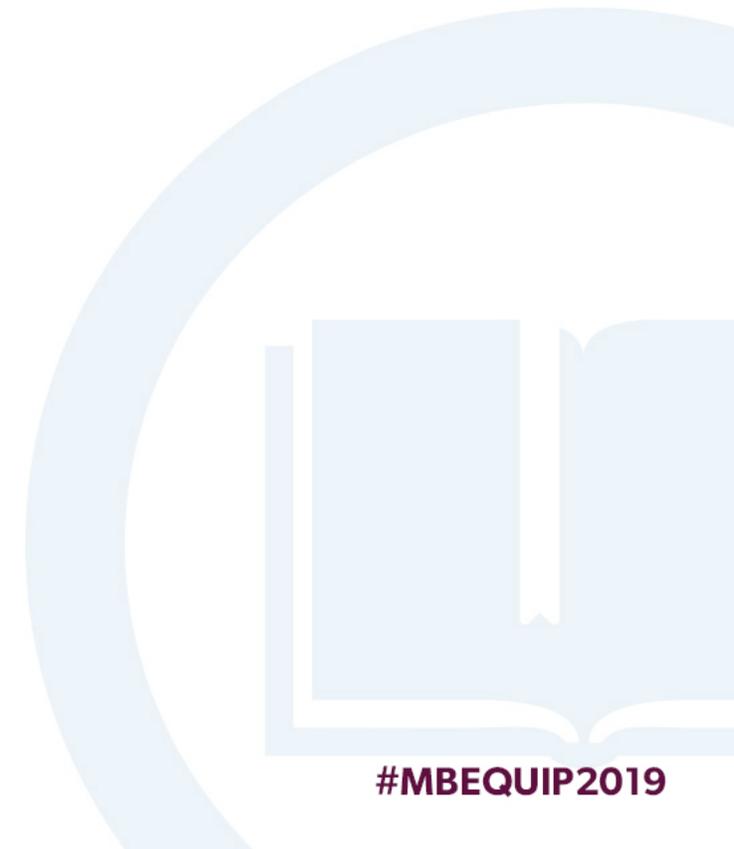
## Interpret

- “Here I am” (vv 1, 7, 11)
- Name change
- Three levels:
  - Abraham was immediately responsive
  - The LORD’s first steps in fulfilling his promise to provide a land
  - The LORD personally provides for the faithful/obedient



# Genesis 22

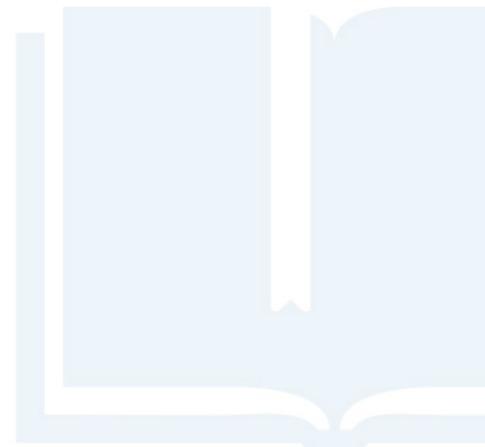
**Apply**



**#MBEQUIP2019**

## Apply

- The reality of Jesus in application and living ...



## Apply

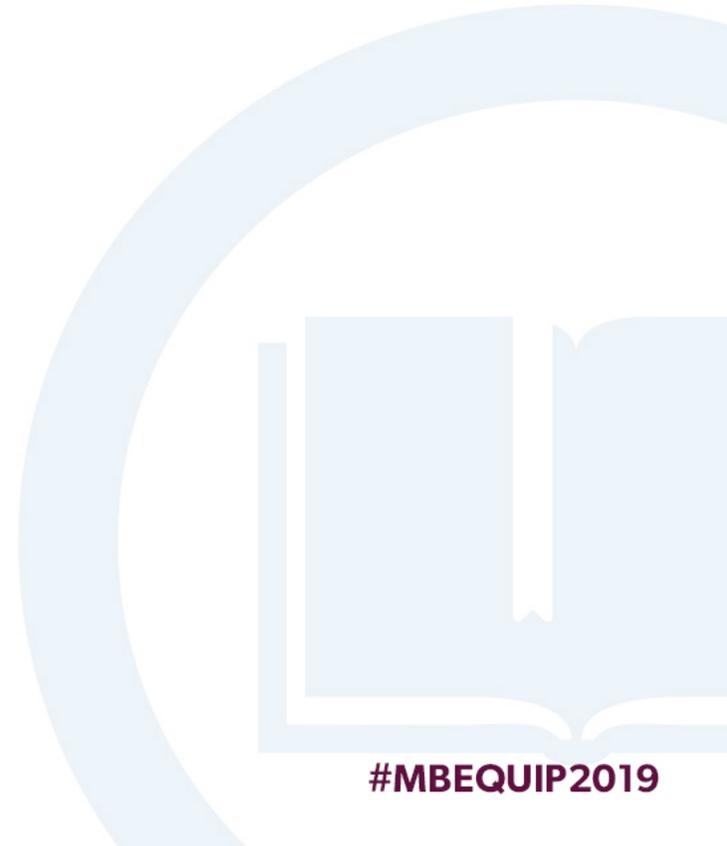
- The reality of Jesus in application and living ...
- Primary - the LORD is faithful (within all three layers)

## Apply

- The reality of Jesus in application and living ...
- Primary - the LORD is faithful (within all three layers)
- Secondary – a picture of responsiveness and obedience

# Genesis 22

Live



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# Genesis 22

## Live

- How do we live in relationship to a profoundly faithful God today?



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## Live

- How do we live in relationship to a profoundly faithful God today?
- What could responsiveness and obedience to God look like in our specific contexts?