

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 3—Part B

(C) **The larger context of _____ / _____**

- Each **genre**, or type of literature, has its own rules, and they are different. We need to “play by the _____” of each genre in order to have the best interpretation.
- For example, keep in mind one of the rules of the proverb genre: A proverb can be situational. It can describe what often happens in life; however, it does not give all the _____.

Case Study # 1: Proverbs 22:6

What should we be looking for or keeping in mind?

Keep in mind the nature (or another one of the “rules”) of a proverb:

It is a short, pithy saying that generally speaking is going to turn out to be true.

However, a proverb is not a _____ genre.

Proverbs 22:6:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

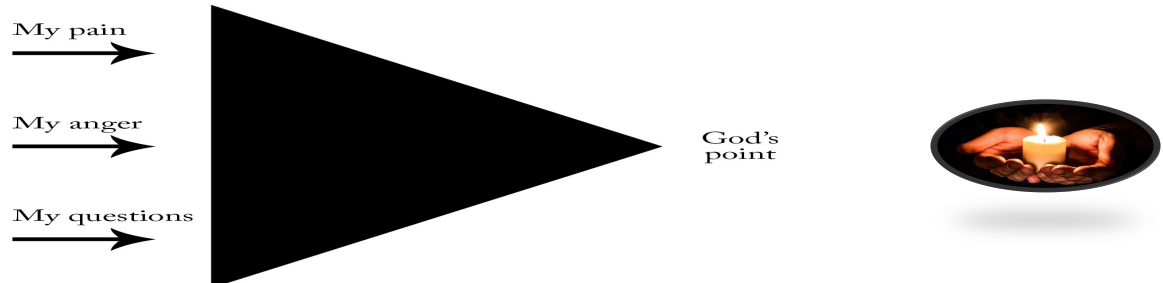
Remember the “rules” of the proverb genre:

A proverb is not a _____.

- This statement does not *guarantee* that a child will *always* grow up to follow the Lord. Nor does it guarantee that if you carefully work with the child’s bent (the way he should go), he will always be set to live into his gifts as he grows.
- A misunderstanding of a proverb like this can cause godly parents a great deal of unnecessary guilt.
- What the proverb is doing is inviting us to use _____ in each situation—
--to train up our children in the “way they should go”
and leave the results to God’s timing, which may not be our timing.

Case Study # 2: The Genre of Lament

- About 40 % of just the Psalms is straight-up lament!
- Lament is a specific type or kind of poetry.
- It is a full-blown emotional explosion that follows a unique structure.



- **KEY** to the careful reading of lament genre:
Remember that many of the things the author writes, though written from the heart, are _____.
- **Be on the look out** for the _____ where the writer's perspective shifts b/c of God's truth. Be attuned to the "turns" in your own life.

Lament is NOT looked down on in the Bible!



- The Bible wants you to do this. (Lament is a significant genre in the Scriptures.)
- It can be the first step toward deeper healing—toward avoiding surface solutions.
- Lament is tough. It takes...
 - (1) emotional _____ and vulnerability to face our giants
 - (2) a willingness to _____, to bring our pain to our Giant Slayer.

Breakout Exercise: Lament

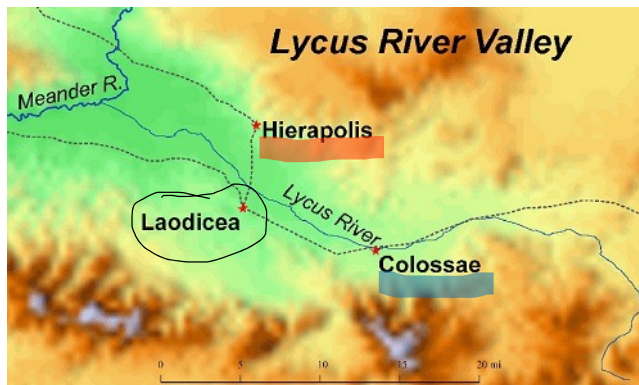
- Discuss your experience w/ the following parts of the lament process.
 → Which part of the lament practice do you need to grow in?

- (1) Look to God honestly. Often a lament begins by an address to God:
 “How long, O Lord? (Psalm 13:1-2).
 The point is that the person in pain chooses to talk to God about what is happening.
- (2) Bring your complaint. Nothings is off-limits---frustrations, anger, fear.
- (3) Ask boldly for help. Seeking God’s help while in pain is an act of faith. (Psalm 13:3-4)
 Instead of blocking yourself off in...
 despair (“there’s no hope”) or denial (“everything’s fine”),
dare to consider that there is hope b/c of God’s power, mercy, and steadfast love.
- (4) “Turn” to trust. This is the destination for our laments. (Psalm 13:5-6).
 Renew your commitment to trust in God as you navigate the brokenness.
 Be on the lookout for God to meet you in one of the “5 Cs.”

(D) The larger context of _____

Case Study: How can visualizing geography aid you in understanding Rev. 3:14-16?

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Origin of the creation of God, says this: ¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth.’ Revelation 3:14-16



How was Christ’s rebuke immediately understood by the Laodiceans b/c of their geographical context?

Interpret with geography in mind:

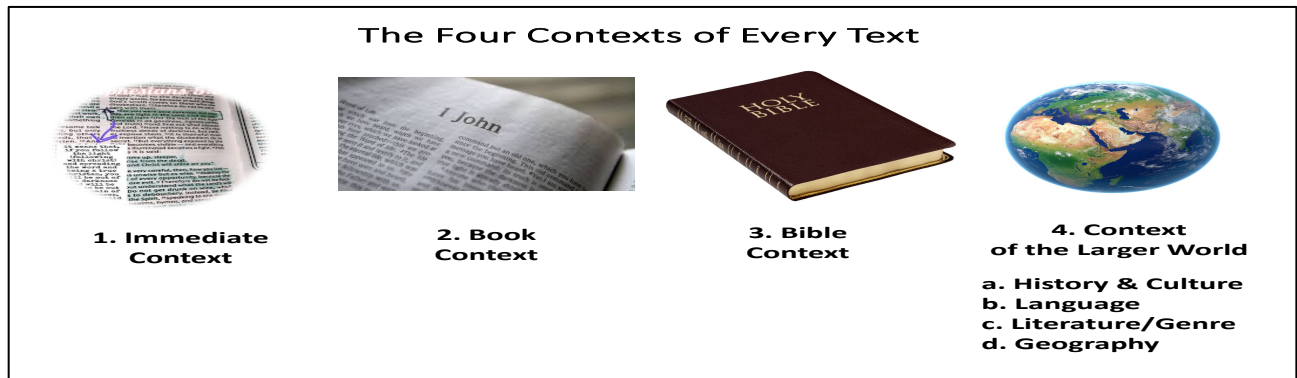
They were not living out of their resources of their union w/ Christ when they were neither

- _____—refreshing & life-giving
- _____—healing

Laodicea had significant _____, but they refused to join God in His work, so they did not experience His life.

Adventure Workouts for Lesson 3

1. **Memorize** 1 Timothy 1:5- “[T]he goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”
2. **Share** with someone this week what you learned about how to accurately interpret the Bible.



Begin using the four contexts of every text to go deeper in your Bible study.

3. **Discuss** with someone OR **journal** individually on one of these prompts:
 - Think about a time when you or someone you know misinterpreted a verse or passage. What effect did this faulty interpretation have on your/their thinking about God, others, self, the church, the world?
 - How does the church change when the people who are not officially ordained (or in ecclesiastical authority) are empowered with tools to accurately interpret the Bible for themselves?
 - Before this lesson, what were your guidelines/practices in interpreting the scriptures?