

Questions to Ask When You Find Confusing or Difficult Scripture Passages

When you encounter a confusing or difficult scripture passage, consider asking one or more of the following questions.

- **How can putting this passage in context help?** The scriptures often present us with cultures and worldviews that are very different from our own. It can be easy to misunderstand the scriptures when we fail to understand the context of a passage. Use scripture study resources to help.
- **What information or details might be missing?** The scriptures are incomplete records. Some scripture passages may lack important details that, if known, could make them easier to understand (see 1 Nephi 13:26–29; Jacob 3:13; Helaman 3:14; 3 Nephi 26:6).
- **What added insight can come by considering the passage from an eternal perspective?** Be careful about what conclusions you make based on a single passage of scripture. Think about what else you know about the people, teaching, or event. Consider what you already know about Heavenly Father and His plan.
- **How can reliable and trustworthy sources help?** God is our most trusted source. When you pray to Him about confusing scripture passages, you can invite His Spirit to provide added insight and peace. Truths taught in other scripture passages and in teachings from God’s prophets can also guide you. Parents and Church leaders and teachers can also help. You can find help from Church publications and other trustworthy sources.

Note: If you still feel confused after exploring these questions, remember that there may be some scripture passages that can’t be explained right now. You may need to trust that in the Lord’s time, further light and knowledge will come (see Doctrine and Covenants 101:32–34).

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