

Understanding the Scriptures in Context

Putting the scriptures in context means we study a particular passage in relation to the circumstances, events, and teachings surrounding it. Consider how the following levels of context can help:

1. **Immediate context.** Read the surrounding verses to learn the immediate setting for the scripture passage. What event or circumstance provides important background information? Did a question asked in the verses prompt a response? For many passages it can help to know who is speaking to whom and why.
2. **Broader context.** Learning about the historical, cultural, and geographic setting can help us better understand a particular passage by seeing how it fits into the chapter or book. It may also help us see how the passage fits within the context of the gospel.

Readers can find help to understand the context of scripture passages in the following resources (available in Gospel Library): Study Helps, Church History, Topics and Questions, institute or seminary teacher manuals, and *Come, Follow Me—For Home and Church*.

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