

Introduction

Last week, Pastor Jesse began the sermon series *Our DNA: Biblical* with his message entitled, "Is the Bible Really Inspired?" This week, he focuses on facts about how the Bible was written, looking at principles on how to interpret the Bible, and then practically applying those facts and principles to interpret difficult Biblical passages.

Discussion

1. Why is it important to understand how the Bible was written, compiled and passed down? If these elements are misunderstood, how could they lead to a misinterpretation of what a biblical passage means? Discuss an example of an often misinterpreted passage and the effect it has on believers.
2. Share a time when your misunderstanding of a biblical truth led you to an improper attitude or action.
3. When it's said the Bible is "inerrant," it means the Bible is fully truthful in all it affirms when correctly interpreted in light of its authors' historical culture and purpose for writing. What are some practical steps you can take when you don't fully understand a biblical passage?

Think About It

A man who regularly studied his Bible believed the word *hypocrite*, a word Jesus often used when rebuking religious leaders, meant "a self-righteous, haughty individual who considers himself better than others." The man felt the term had little application to his life until one day he took out his concordance and discovered the term Jesus used for *hypocrite* simply meant "an actor." The man realized he, too, had acted to impress others at times and recognized Jesus' rebukes were as relevant to him as they were to the Pharisees of Jesus' day.

Do Something

1. Take time this week to study your Bible. Read a short passage every day, and apply the principles Pastor Jesse taught.
2. Prior to reading Scripture, pray and ask God's Spirit to reveal what you need to learn from the Bible passage you read. Ask how it can be applied to your life in a practical way.
3. If you encounter a difficult passage of Scripture you don't understand, find a commentary and concordance and reread the passage with their guidance. Or, ask another believer or your small group if they understand the difficult passage.
4. Ask God to help you apply one thing you have learned from your Bible studies this week.