

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.
Isaiah 50:4

Passage for the Month: Matthew 19:16-30

Biblical Hermeneutics¹:

- Context:
 - What was the main point of the passage just before?

 - From the context clues, what do we know about this person who came up to talk to Jesus?

 - Explain vs. 24 in its original context?

Questions:

- Reflection:
 - What is the main idea of this passage?

 - How would you explain vs. 24 to your peers today?

 - What's one thing you learned from this passage?

 - Where's the Gospel in this passage?

- Response:
 - Teach this passage to another person (including your mentee if you have one)

 - How do you think our youth relate to this passage?

¹ the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially of the Bible or literary texts.

- Why do you think students in schools and the community need this passage?

Resources:

- R. T. France — [The Gospel of Matthew](#) (New International Commentary on the New Testament, 2007).
- D. A. Carson — “[Matthew](#)” in The Expositor’s Bible Commentary (1984).
- Craig S. Keener — [A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew](#) (1999).
- <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/rich-young-ruler/>
- <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/remember-the-rich-young-man>
- <http://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/riches-and-the-rich>
- <http://resources.thegospelcoalition.org/library/the-missing-ingredient>

Assignment for the Month: Applying October 2015

Middle School

1. Interview your parents, 1 adult, and 2 friends and record their responses to the following questions
 - a. Do you believe the Bible is completely true or not? Why? Why not?
 - b. Do you believe the Bible should be used in the public (ex: schools, government, media), or private (ex: personal use only)? Why? Why not?
 - c. Do you believe the Bible is relevant for today and the future? Why? Why not?
2. In a document (paper or digital) write out the following:
 - a. What did you find out from this interview? Were the answers what you expected?
 - b. Do you personally agree or disagree with their answers? Who did you agree/disagree with most?
 - c. How do you think people 10 years from now will answer those 3 questions mentioned above?

High School & Up

As Christians, we are always trying to grow more in our affections and understanding in God...in order that we might enjoy him more. Last month we studied about the Doctrine of the Word of God. However, as believers we study also in order to equip others and to “give a defense” (1 Peter 3:15).

Your assignment for the month is to answer the following questions as if someone is honestly curious to find out the answers. Write out a response in a letter format (electronic or paper):

“Dear Youth Leader,

I have a few questions for you since I know that you are a Christian and that you study theology. I want you to be honest with me in what you really think though. Also i’m not really familiar with churchy language so could you explain to me in everyday language?

1. My first question is about how Christians got their bible. Like how did they decide which books were included or excluded in the bible? Also who decided which books got put in? Was it random? Or was there even a process? I'm asking because there's all these other books out there that were written around the same time but they weren't included.
2. My second question is about the Bible itself. Why do Christians trust something that has been written thousands of years ago? What does all of that stuff have to do with us today? And then aren't there all these rules in there that are actually illegal today? Which rules do we obey? All of them?!?! And lastly, do we have to believe in everything in the Bible? Doesn't some of the stuff go against what we know in science and how we've changed the meaning of sex, marriage, and homosexuality?

Thanks for taking the time and answer my questions. I know you're busy but these are just some things that I've had on m mind for awhile. Please send me your answers as soon as possible. "