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Women’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1777

Text to give to Real Life, simply text your amount to # 208.515.7441

Men’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1822

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“Elisha and the Two Bears”

How do I learn to apply scripture to my life?

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

1. How to Apply Scripture to Your Life

- a. Understand scripture in its *original context*: How would it have been understood by the original audience?
- b. Learn truth and timeless principles: What does it mean?
- c. Contextualize principles for today: How does it apply to us?

2. Understand Scripture in Its *Original Context*

- a. **Storyline Context:** Place the story within the overarching story of the Bible:
 - i. Creation (Eden) - Fall (Sin) - Redemption (Empty tomb, New Earth)
- b. **Geographical Context:**
 - i. Bethel - Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-33)
 1. Idolatry has consequences both now and in eternity
 - ii. God is loving to confront idolatry (Mt. Carmel)
- c. **Immediate Storyline Context:** Elijah is taken up by chariots of fire
 - i. God establishes Elisha as Elijah’s successor as a prophet
- d. **Language Context:** “Small boys” - “Na’ar qaton”
 - i. Could refer to a youth, immaturity, or a servant-like role

“Maybe there were 42 funerals, maybe not. We simply cannot say. But one thing is sure: everyone watching and everyone who survived learned a lesson that day: God’s message is serious, and Elisha is His new messenger” (Answers in Genesis).

3. Learn truth and timeless principles: What does it mean?

- a. Ask questions of the text
 - i. What do we learn about God?
 - ii. What do we learn about people?
 - iii. What do we learn about relating to God?
 - iv. What do we learn about relating to others?
- b. **God’s authority is worthy of respect and fear.**
 - i. What do you think was the result of this story in the city of Bethel?
- c. **God will ultimately not be mocked.**
 - i. Yes, there is a time of grace, but judgement does come.

Galatians 6:7 (ESV) “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”

- ii. Those who mock God or His divinely appointed authorities are in danger of receiving just judgment at any time.

4. Contextualize principles for today: How does it apply to us?

- a. Ask questions of what you learned
 - i. **Characters:** Is scripture encouraging me to imitate a **character** or do the opposite of what they did?
 - ii. **Events:** Does this **event** reveal something about how life works?

b. Character Study

- i. Are you more like **the 42** - following the crowd - fully accepted as you live in rebellion or mockery of God or His delegated authority?
 1. Revere God's authority... even delegated authority.
 - a. Family, church, government, workplace
- ii. Are you more like **the parents/adults of the 42** - allowing the next generation to go its way without saying otherwise?
 1. Do you model the fear of the Lord?
- iii. Do you need to follow **Elisha's** model of godliness in light of mockery?
 1. God will ultimately not be mocked, but we will be here on Earth.

Matthew 5:11-12 (ESV) "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

c. Event Study

- i. **Should I be cursing people?** Romans 12:14-21 "Bless and do not curse"

5. Conclusion

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NASB) "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Icebreaker Question:

What's the weirdest or most confusing Bible story you remember hearing for the first time?

Main Idea from the Sermon:

Every believer can rightly apply Scripture to their life by understanding its original context, learning its timeless principles, and carefully contextualizing those principles for today.

Head Level Questions (KNOW the Word)

1. Have someone story 2 Kings 2:23-25 from memory and then read it.
2. What was the context and significance of the young men mocking Elisha?

Heart Level Questions (BELIEVE the Truth)

1. What do I feel when I read about God's judgment in this passage? Do I trust that God is both just and good?
2. Do I have a genuine "fear of the Lord"—not terror, but reverence?
 - o Follow up: How would my actions change if I lived with a greater reverence for God's holiness?

Hand & Feet Level Questions (LIVE IT OUT)

1. In what ways can I model respect for God's authority (and those He delegates) at home, work, or in my community?
2. Challenging: Is there an area in my life where I've been mocking God—through words, attitudes, or behaviors—and need to repent and submit to His authority?



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
bit.ly/RLQvertime



Series Resources
bit.ly/RLcurrentseries

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