

# Being Real with God's Word

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*Getting more out of reading the Bible – Better Blokes 2011 – Tim Williams*

Expanded notes at <https://sites.google.com/site/monthlylivingbythebook/bb2011>

## Observe the Text

- Be an investigator – answer the **who, what, when, where** and **why**

*Luke 1:26-38*

- Highlight the key points – look for author's clues like **summary statements, repetition, comparison** and **contrast**

*Hebrews 11*

- Look for things that are **true to life** – make sense of it using your own experiences

*Numbers 20:1-12*

## Interpret the Ideas

It's all about context

- The **author's** context – cultural, historical, theological

*John 4:7-9*

- The **literary** context – the passages directly before and after, the themes of the chapter and book, what the rest of the Bible says about what's being said here

*Luke 16:1-9 + Matthew 6:19-24*

- The **reader's** context – what other people have said about this passage under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (mentors, Pastors, commentaries). What the Holy Spirit says to you

## Apply the Truth

- Is there an **example** to follow or avoid?

*Job 1:20-22 + 2 Samuel 11:2-4*

- Is there a **command** to obey?

*James 1:19*

- Is there a **challenge** to face?

*Philippians 4:8*

- Is there a **reason to rejoice**?

*Philippians 2:5-11*

## References

- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) - Many searchable translations of the Bible
- "Living By The Book – The Art and Science of Reading the Bible" by Howard & William Hendricks, Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2007
- <https://sites.google.com/site/monthlylivingbythebook/studies> - other good passages to study and some example questions