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# Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2026

## Class Curriculum - Back to the Bible

Age - Junior Campers

### Friday - Context

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#### Summary

1. Subject: All scripture is written in context
2. Scripture: Luke 10:25-36
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Teach your class about the importance of context. All scripture is better understood when the surrounding verses/chapters are considered. Context about the time and place it was written can also be helpful.
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

**Prayer:** Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

#### Overview

This week's classes will focus on "Back to the Bible". This entails an overview of the Old and New Testaments, as well as the inspiration and inerrancy of scripture. By the end of the week, all campers should be confident that the Bible is the complete and perfect word of God: sufficient for everyone to have an everlasting relationship with God.

Today's lesson will focus on the importance of context. For younger campers, context can be explained as taking a verse and reading the passage both before and after. All verses are written within their context. Similarly, all books of the Bible are written within the context of the books that came before, and might assume that the reader is familiar with older books. For that reason, it is important to read the whole Bible. That way, we can understand each verse as it was intended by God. Additionally, learning about the culture of the time and place in which a book was written can help us understand certain details that may otherwise be confusing.



## Story

10-15 minutes

### The Good Samaritan

The story of the Good Samaritan is recorded in Luke 10:25-36. It is a great way to emphasize context to younger campers. The main point of the story is obvious, but with every layer of added context, there is more and more meaning. Consider using a picture book, a children's study Bible, a skit, or any other means to tell the story. A brief summary and contextual explanation are below:

Story:

- A Jew is traveling from one city to another, and along the way is beaten and robbed (10:30)
- A priest and a Levite pass by and do not help the man (10:31-32)
- A Samaritan passes by and helps the man. He gives him bandages, puts him in an inn, and pays for his needs (10:33-35)

Context:

- This story is a parable. It is not a real event; it is a story that Jesus told to teach a lesson
- A priest was a teacher of God's word. He should have stopped to help the man
- A Levite was another type of priest. A Levite was an Israelite, especially designated to work in the service of God. He also should have stopped to help the man
- A Samaritan was different. Samaritans were different people who often fought with the Jews. Samaritans and Jews were not kind to each other. This means it is surprising that the Samaritan stopped to help
- The Samaritan pours oil and wine on the man's wounds and spends "two denarii" to take care of him. Oil and wine worked like medicine in the time of the Bible, and two denarii were worth about \$100

This is a great exercise in the importance of context. God's word is always true, and reading the story by itself still teaches us the importance of being kind to each other. But with context, we know that this story is a parable: a lesson directly from Jesus Christ. We know that many people who claim to follow God are often not helpful like we should be (we should not be like the priest or Levite when we are older Christians). We see how the Samaritan treated the man with kindness; the context teaches us to love our enemies, not just our friends.

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## Lesson/Discussion

15 Minutes

**Guided Discussion:** The story of the Good Samaritan is just one example of the importance of context, and the main lesson is still easily understood without it. Other times, we might misunderstand the Bible if we take things out of context.

Ask, “**What do you think it means to read the Bible carefully?**” At an age-appropriate level, give them instructions on how they can study the Bible. Reading it carefully is important so that we can understand what God meant. Follow with, “**What do you think it means to read the Bible in context?**” This can mean reading what happened before/after a story, but it also means reading the entire Bible and understanding it as a whole.

Ask, “**Why is it helpful to know what happened before or after a Bible story?**” The best answer is that this information helps us understand what we are reading. One example of this is the interactions between King Saul and David. At times, Saul loved David, and at other times, he tried to kill David. Unless we read what happened before/after any given interaction, we may be confused by the passage we’re reading.

Ask, “**How can we understand the Bible the right way?**” Reading in context can be difficult for younger Christians. Often, the cultural context is not directly included in the Bible and requires another source of information. Talk with your class about different ways they can learn about the Bible. Some examples include:

- Bible classes at church
- Their ministers
- Christian parents and other Christian family members
- Their camp counselors

Older campers may be interested in other sources, like books and websites, that teach about context and a correct understanding of the Bible. Feel free to talk about some sources that you use to learn more about the Bible, and why you trust those sources. Make sure your class understands that there are many false and/or biased books, websites, etc., and that they need to know that a source is trustworthy to believe it.

Ultimately, the best source of information is the Bible, and the best way to understand it is to read the entire Bible. Daily study, which eventually goes through each book at a time.



## Activity/Illustration

### Song - Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day

A song that teaches about the importance of reading the Bible often is the song Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day. Start the song by crouching as low to the ground as you can go, and slightly rise every time you sing “grow”. Shrink down every time you sing, “shrink”.

*Read your Bible, pray every day*

*Pray every day*

*Pray every day*

*Read your Bible, pray every day*

*And you'll grow, grow, grow (x2)*

*Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, GROW!*

*(Second verse: “Neglect your Bible, forget to pray, and you'll shrink, shrink, shrink)*

### Game - Bible Treasure Hunt

For campers who can read, have them all open their Bibles. Tell them that the Bible is full of treasures. It has stories that tell us about God, wisdom that He gives us, and many encouraging things. Reading the Bible and learning from it is like discovering great treasures. So this game will take them on a “Treasure Hunt”.

Tell them to find a verse or a story about a specific topic. Some examples might be finding a story about love, a piece of advice that applies to us today, an example of a sacrifice, or a promise that someone makes. Depending on the topic and your campers' familiarity with the Bible, this may be difficult, so be prepared to give them clues like a specific book and/or chapter. Do this with as many topics/stories as you can, and make sure your campers feel like they have discovered a treasure when they can locate specific things in God's word.

For campers who cannot read, this game can be done more simply. Using common children's Bible stories, ask them to think of a story that teaches about a specific topic. For example, Noah's Flood could be the answer for the topics of consequences, faithfulness, cleansing, or being saved. Do this with as many topics/stories as you can, discovering the “treasure” of God's word each time.