



A.I.M. FOR THE TRUTH

A Three-Step Framework for Meaningful Bible Reading

By Jesse Jackson

STEP ONE: A — Adopt the “Whole Counsel” Rule

Focus: *Broaden your view to see the full horizon of God's Word.*

Begin reading entire books, not just isolated verses. While any part of Scripture is beneficial, engaging on a deeper level helps you move away from “verse-of-the-day” reading and **proof-texting**. Instead, strive to understand the **whole counsel of Scripture** (Acts 20:27).

- **Practical Start:** Begin with the **Gospel of John**. It focuses on the identity of Jesus and was written specifically so that the reader may believe and have life (John 20:31).
 - **Pro-Tip:** If a book is long, break it up into segments and read a few chapters a day.
 - **The Result:** You develop a comprehensive understanding of what God is conveying.
-

STEP TWO: I — Identify the “Content”

Focus: *Hit the “Bullseye” of the author's original intent.*

Ask the question: **What does God mean by what He says?** Move beyond looking for a “good feeling” or a personal takeaway. Instead, seek to understand the substance of the book and its content.

- **The Investigation:** Ask: *What is the author's main argument? What are the recurring themes? What are the keywords?*
 - **The Bridge:** This step acts as a bridge between reading and applying. You must understand the message as it was originally given before you can live it out.
 - **The Rule: Respect the author's voice before listening to your own.** This process ensures proper interpretation and application.
-

STEP THREE: M — Measure by “Submission Before Application”

Focus: *Determine the path of obedience.*

Instead of reading with preconceived notions, begin by asking the Lord to align your heart with His truth. Before jumping right to personal application, look for the **Divine Mandate** by asking three critical questions:

1. **Are there specific biblical mandates or moral requirements mentioned?**
2. **Are these instructions specifically to us, or were they specific to the original audience?**
3. **If they are for us, are we ready to submit and obey them?**

Crucial Distinction: **Even though all of Scripture is for us, not all Scripture is to us or about us.** Failing to make this distinction can lead to “spiritualizing” the text and creating confusion. For example, God's command to build an ark was to Noah, not to us—yet we can still learn from and apply the principle of Noah's faith.