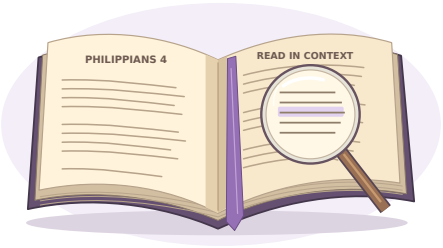
R COMMUNAL RELIGION

HAMSTER LESSON #0000021

Read the whole thought.

A verse belongs to a larger message.



Read the paragraph before applying a verse.

TRY IT TODAY

Read Philippians 4:10–14 around verse 13.

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1. ❓ Can a familiar Bible verse mean something different when we read the sentences around it?
2. 🙋 The surrounding passage helps us recognize the author’s meaning. Before applying one line, ask who is speaking, to whom, and how that line fits the whole thought.
3. ⏳ Paul wrote Philippians to believers at Philippi while imprisoned. The letter expresses affection for their partnership in the gospel; its closing section thanks them for practical support.
4. 💡 Philippians 4:13 follows Paul’s description of contentment in hunger and plenty. Read 4:10–14: his strength concerns faithfulness in changing circumstances, not a guarantee of winning every competition.
5. 🔍 A familiar phrase can become a slogan detached from its purpose. Context does not weaken Scripture’s encouragement; it helps us receive the encouragement the passage actually gives.
6. 🌎 Careful reading also matters in a message from a friend or a workplace instruction. In Bible study, listening before applying honors God’s Word instead of making it serve our preferred conclusion.
7. 🎯 Before using a verse to encourage someone today, read its surrounding paragraph. Check whether your message fits it. For Philippians 4:13, offer encouragement to depend on Christ in difficulty rather than promise a particular result.

References · Philippians 1 (NIV) · Philippians 4 (NIV) · Acts 17:10–12 (NIV) · BibleProject: How to Read the Bible
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