

# CrossTrek

## Start Your Bible Journey

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For  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

# Introduction

- Goal

Create a conversation that will answer basic questions about the Bible and prepare you to read and study God's Word

# Introduction

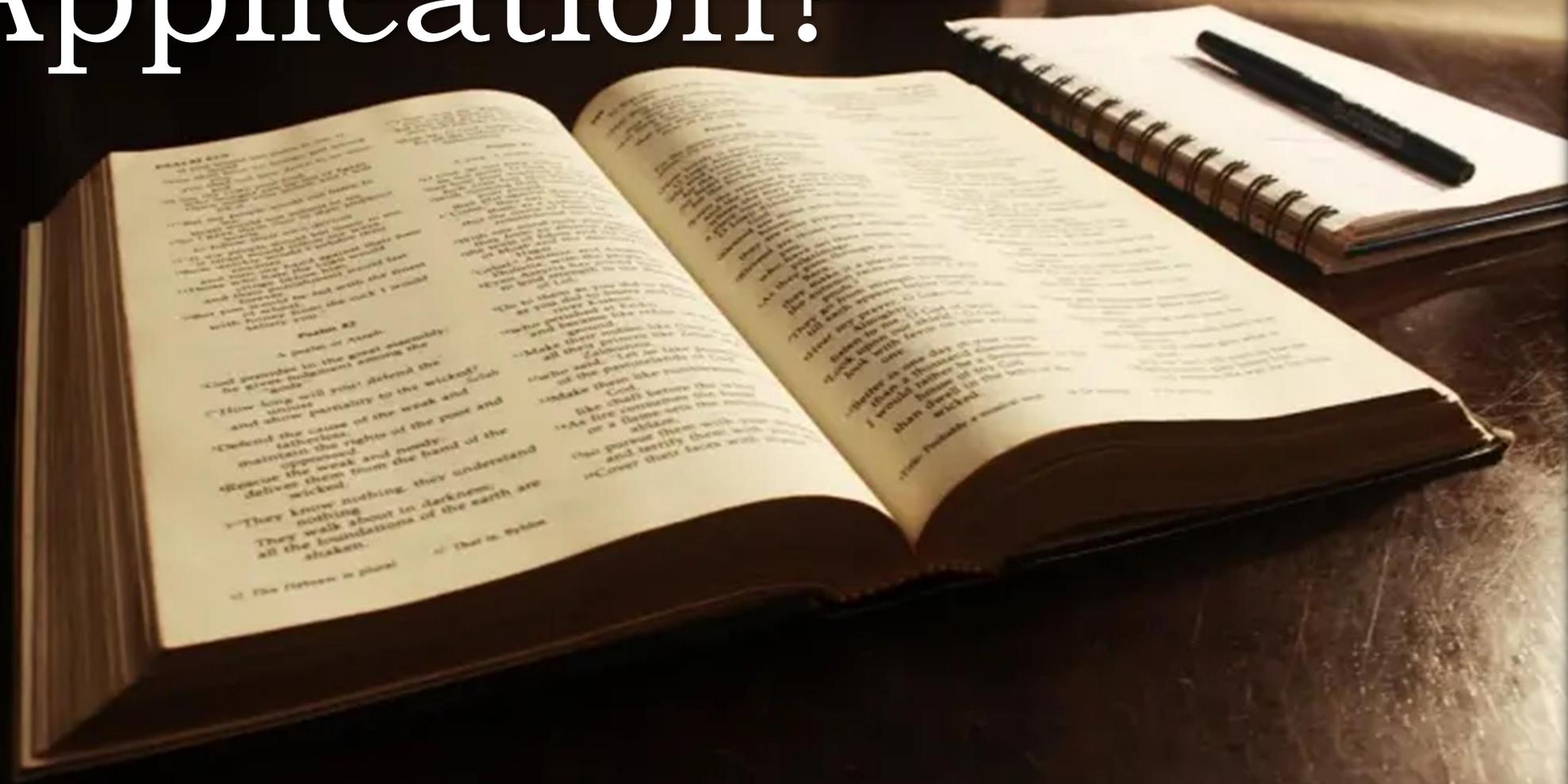
- Questions, comments, or concerns from previous sessions

# Introduction

- Overview

- 1) What is the Bible?
- 2) How is the Bible Organized?
- 3) How is God Speaking?
- 4) What am I Missing Here?
- 5) How Can I Read for Application?**
- 6) What Resources Are Most Helpful?

# How Can I Read for Application?



# Introduction

- Assumptions



# Introduction

- Method
  - Three parts divided into multiple steps that examine different dimensions of the text.
  - Focus on developing helpful questions

# Parts of the Study Plan

- 1) First Things First
- 2) Troubleshoot Problem Areas by Determining What the Text Meant
- 3) Bring the Text into Your Life by Determining What the Text Means

# First Things First

1) Pray your way into the Word.



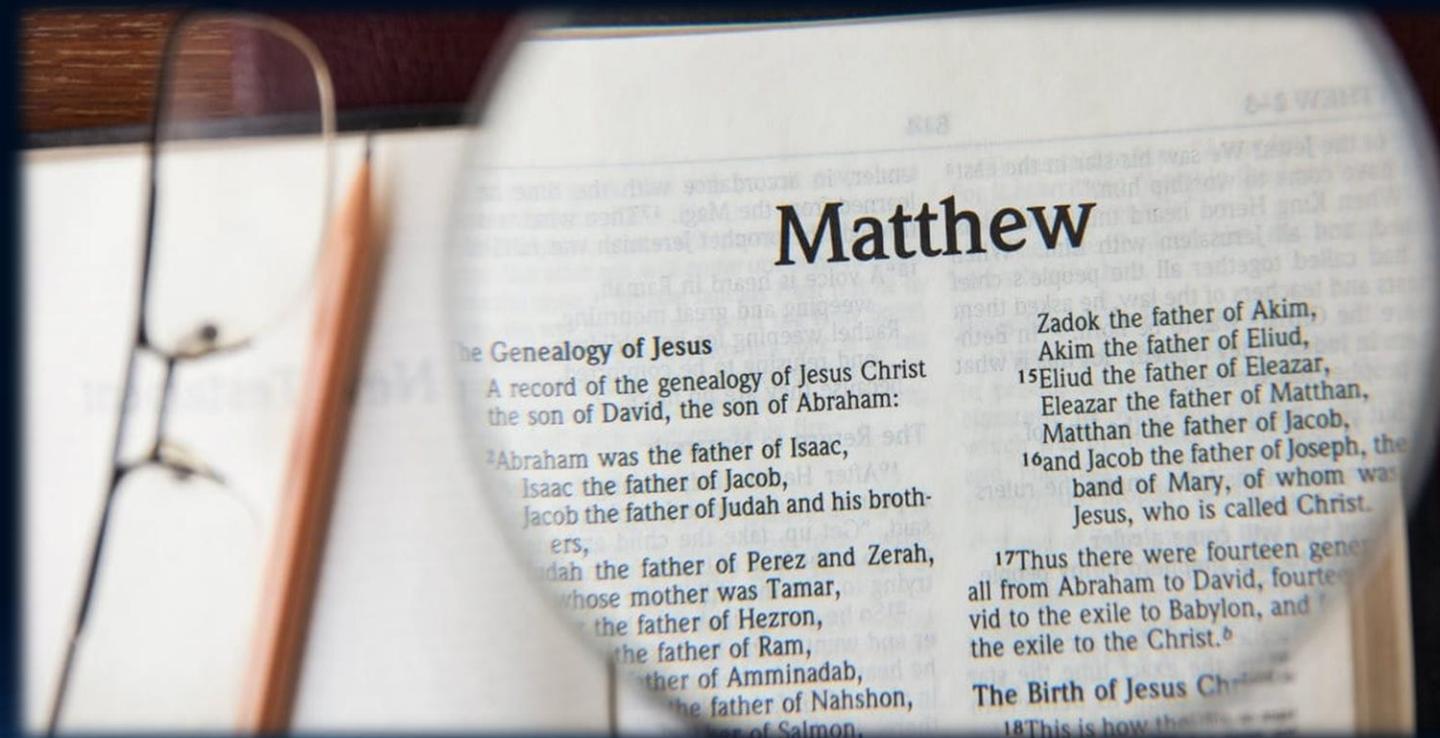
# First Things First

- 2) Read the text multiple times and write down initial impressions and questions.



# Troubleshoot Problem Areas

- 1) If you are having trouble understanding the text on its own, consider its relationship to the Bible book.



# Troubleshoot Problem Areas

- 2) If you are having trouble with the meaning of a word or finding the main point of a sentence, focus on vocabulary and grammar.



# Troubleshoot Problem Areas

- 3) If you are having trouble with the style of writing, identify the literary genre and expectations it carries for the reader.





# Troubleshoot Problem Areas

- 5) If you are having trouble with place names or elements of natural history, dig into the geographical realities mentioned in the text.



# Troubleshoot Problem Areas

- 6) If you are having trouble understanding the mention of an artifact or element of ancient culture, investigate the cultural context.



# Troubleshoot Problem Areas

7) If you are getting lost in the details, stop and summarize what the text meant.

Who is speaking?

How is this person speaking?

What is the writer talking about?

What is the writer saying about what they are talking about?

# Bring the Text into Your Life

1) Ask the big content questions.

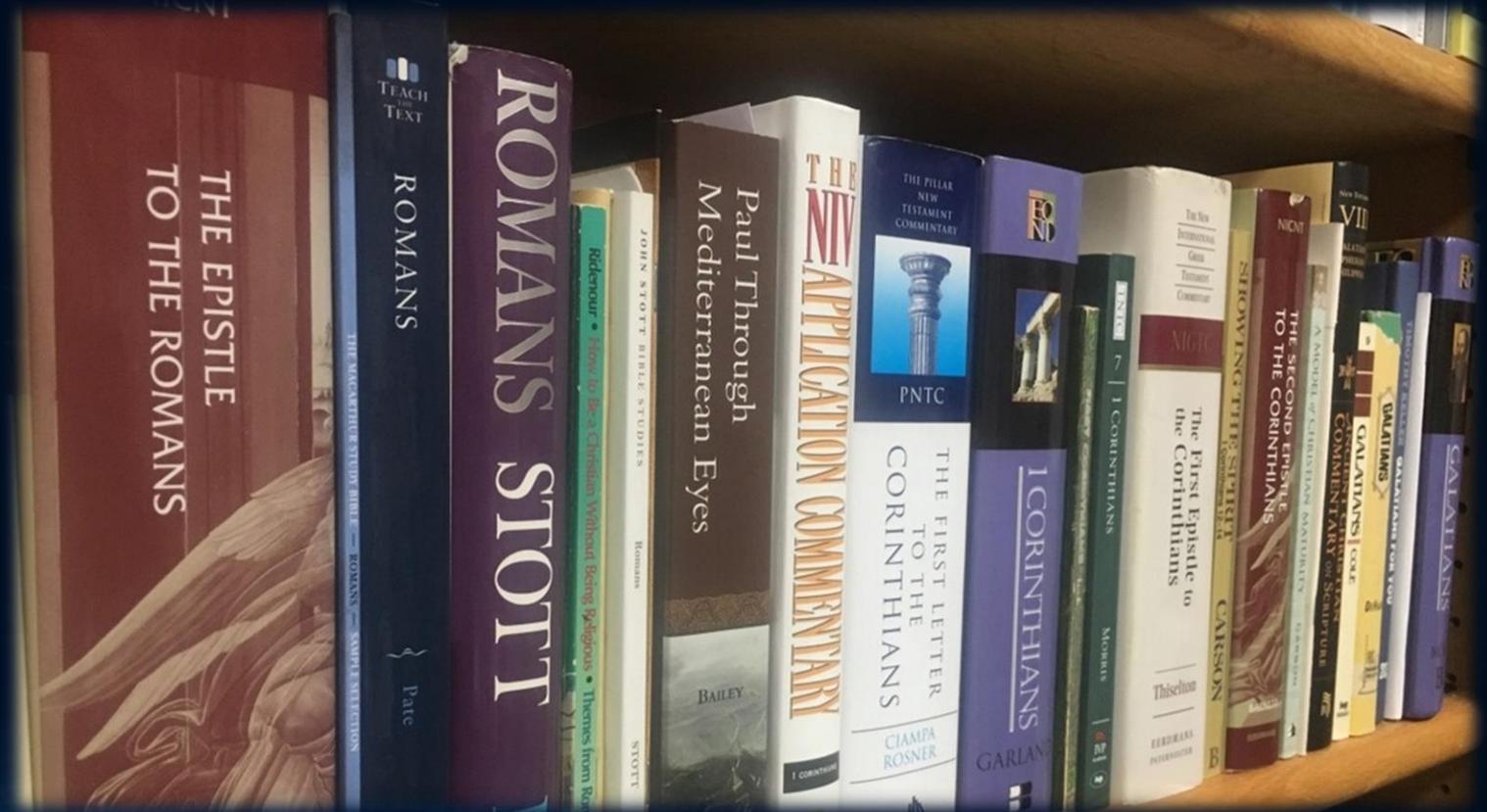
Who is God?

How does God think about me?

How does God want me to live?

# Bring the Text into Your Life

2) Consult the interpretation of others.

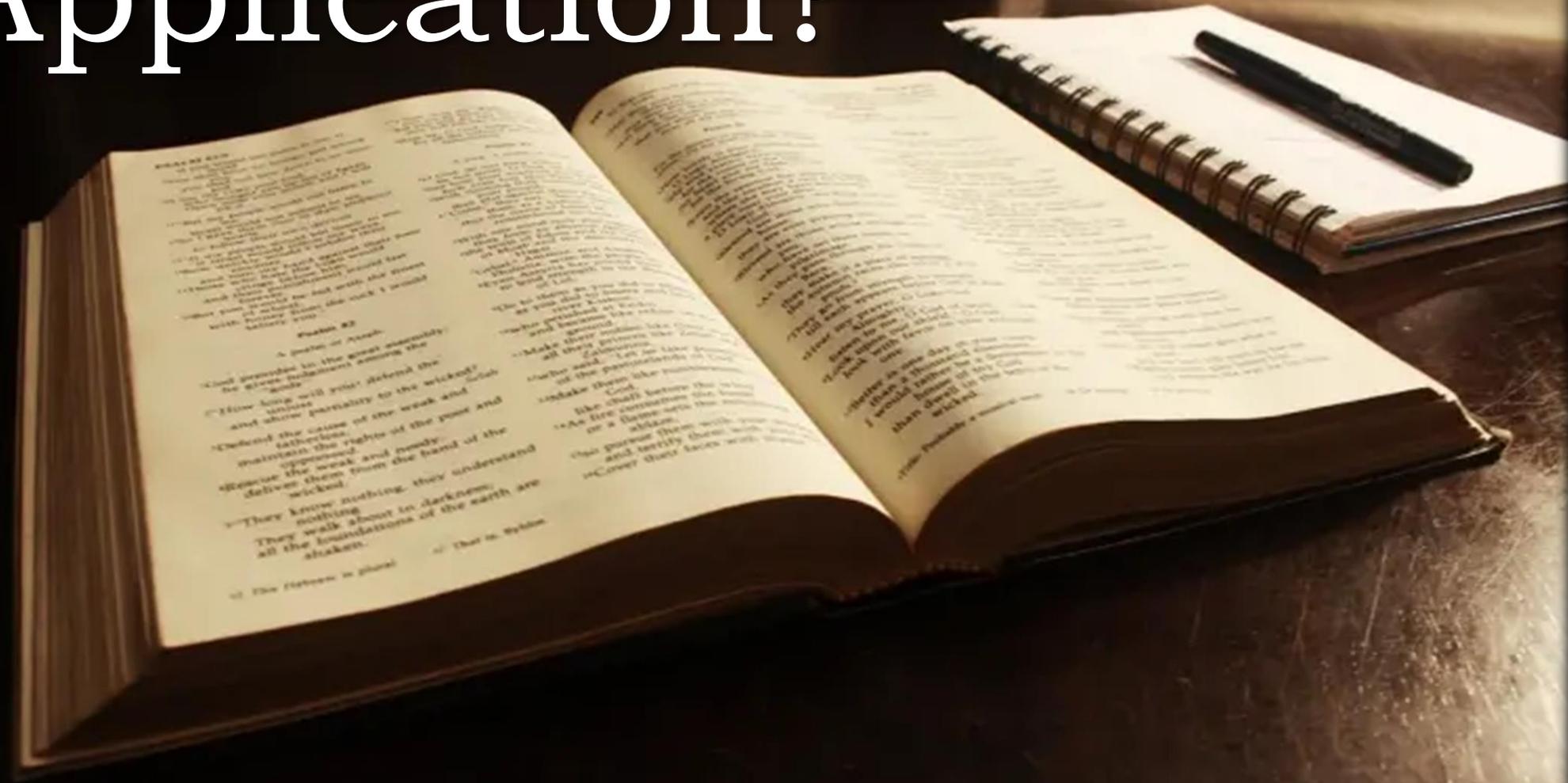


# Bring the Text into Your Life

3) Ask the personal application questions.



# How Can I Read for Application?



# Exercise

- Develop a set of impressions and questions related to the following texts.

Those who trust in the Lord are like  
Mount Zion,

which cannot be shaken but  
endures forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the Lord surrounds his people  
both now and forevermore.

(Psalm 125:1-2 NIV)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

(John 14:1-4 NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

(Galatians 5:1-6 NIV)