



7 Life-
Hacks
From
JESUS

*That will Help You Easily
Understand The Bible*

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Seven Life-Hacks From Jesus That Will Help You Easily Understand The Bible

The ultimate invitation into revelation knowledge!



Rick Osborne has authored and co-authored books that have sold over 10 million copies worldwide. God has called him to help Christians of all ages walk in the fullness of what Jesus paid for and be transformed into His image.

He's co-authored books with Dr. John Trent (Focus on The Family's Guide To The Spiritual Growth of Children), Dr. Gary Chapman (The 5 Love Languages for Kids), and Dr. Tom Blackaby (The Experiencing God Family Devotional). Two of his latest books, "At Work Within" and "Love's Transformation," have consistently transformed the lives of his readers. He co-wrote and led the team that produced "The Most Important Story." which has had over a hundred million copies distributed worldwide in over 120 different languages and dialects.

For decades Rick had a thriving ministry. He had a passion for Jesus Christ and believed he was doing everything that he was called to do. Then one day, when Rick least expected it, Jesus appeared to him and told him that He would teach him personally and directly from the Bible. Jesus started teaching Rick, as promised, that evening. What Rick didn't know then was that the Lord would be letting him do little else but learn at Jesus' feet for ten years! Rick spent up to 16 hours a day with the

Lord, and the depth, yet practical simplicity of what he was taught from the Word of God blew his mind; and transformed him. The whole time Jesus was teaching Rick, He made it clear that He wants this same intimate relationship with ALL of His disciples; and He wants to teach them all in the same supernatural way He taught Rick (minus the ten years in seclusion). Jesus has now released Rick and tasked him with teaching you what Jesus taught him.

Rick is now focused on teaching others what He was taught by Jesus from the Word so that they can experience the same intimacy with God and transformation that he continues to walk in.

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Thanks

What You Need To Know Before You Start

If you asked me years ago, “What did Jesus teach us about reading and studying the Bible?” I probably could have come up with two or three verses and a brief explanation. The sad part about that is that I knew my Bible better than most Christians that I knew, I read and/or studied it daily (for decades), and I was a successful Christian Author.

Of course, that is only “sad” from the perspective of hindsight. At the time, I would have told you that although Jesus taught from the Bible (the Old Testament), He didn’t spend much time specifically teaching us about the Bible. Again, with the benefit of hindsight, I didn’t get it.

Then everything changed!

One morning I was sitting quietly in prayer, and Jesus appeared in a vision and spoke to me. He told me that He would start teaching me personally and directly from His Word. I was honored and floored—and in the spirit of complete disclosure—I felt a little proud like I had somehow earned this.

The Lord started teaching me that evening. It honestly felt like He was sitting next to me, talking to me directly through His Holy Spirit. He was literally teaching me personally from His Word. One of the first things He taught me is that He wants to teach every one of His children this way. The pride fell away quickly when I realized He was teaching me the way

the Bible says He will teach everyone. I was merely being given the grace to learn from Him and to learn how to learn from Him so that I could turn around and teach others.

At first Jesus asked me to spend 3 hours a day learning from Him, and He asked me to stop doing most everything else I was doing in my career. Then He asked me to spend 6 hours a day with Him. Then He doubled it again to 12 hours a day. That lasted ten years!

Yikes!

My wife's nickname for me became Weepy-boy. If you asked her why, she would simply answer, "He wept for ten years." Why did the Lord keep me focused on learning for ten years? He wanted me to learn from Him so completely that I could help others—like you—learn quickly.

After ten years, Father released me and told me to start teaching what I was taught. So, what you're about to read came out of that experience. After being taught by Him, I now know that what Jesus taught us about the Bible and how to read, study and understand it could fill a few books.

However, for the sake of this mini-e-Book PDF, I'm going to show you ten simple things He clearly taught us in the Gospels that will transform your understanding of His Word, I know it certainly did that for me.

The first one—of course—is what He taught me about Him teaching us personally and directly from His Word.

But before I start, let me quickly answer a simple question that some of you may have silently asked when you read the title of this Mini e-Book, “Why did I use the term “Life-hacks” in reference to Jesus’ teaching. Easy answer. I was led to believe that many of the teachings of Jesus were deep and theological, and that being able to clearly and simply understand them was “beyond my pay grade.”

What I know now is that what He taught was clear and simple, and when you understand it, it’s easy to apply and live out moment by moment. When you do, every piece of it will make your life easier. In the modern-day vernacular, the best way to sum up His simple but life-changing wisdom is by using the word life-hacks, which essentially means “an easier, more effective way of doing something in your life.”

So, let’s get started with life-hack number one!

1. Jesus is Your Teacher.

Jesus spoke about God's Word, but what He did more often was quote it and teach from it. Remember, Jesus grew up with the same Old Testament that we have in our Bibles today.

As God's sinless Son who was united with Father and the Holy Spirit from birth, He understood that the Old Testament was His Father's Word. He started to learn from it at a young age, and by the time He taught from it, He knew it completely and understood the Father's intent in every word.

When Jesus said,

Matthew 5:17-18 (ESV)

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them **but to fulfill them**. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not an iota, not a dot**, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

In order for Him to state emphatically that He was here to fulfill every Word of the Law and the Prophets, right down to the smallest detail, He had to know and understand every part of His Father's book!

The amazing thing about that is that every time Jesus taught from the Bible, His interpretation and understanding of the verse or verses became instant keys to understanding

Father's intent and purpose for those verses, their context, and every related verse in the Old Testament. The Son of God—who is called The Word, gave us—through the same Holy Spirit who composed the Old Testament—the keys to understanding His Father's Word.

Practically said, every time Jesus quoted from or made reference to the book of Isaiah, He gave us keys to understanding that amazing book. I didn't know that until Jesus taught it to me.

Now that we've briefly explored that important foundation. Let's look at what Jesus taught about Him being our Teacher.

One day Jesus shocked His disciples with these words.

Matthew 23:8, 10-11 (ESV)

8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers...

10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

In Jesus' time, being a Rabbi, or teacher, was an honorable thing. Rabbis were highly esteemed. Those teachers took on disciples who learned from them and eventually took over their Rabbi's position and continued teaching what their Rabbi taught. The Twelve disciples often argued about who

was the greatest because they wondered which one, or ones, would be selected as Jesus' replacement Rabbis.

Then Jesus announced a new system, "You are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher." He basically said that from then on, we'd only have one exalted Teacher and Instructor and that we'd all be on the same level as brothers and sisters. He had just informed the Twelve—in front of a crowd—that no one was taking His place. I often picture Peter, James, and John's jaws dropping in disbelief.

Then just before Jesus went to the cross, He addressed His disciples as "children" (which was what Rabbis called their disciples then) and, in the same conversation, told them that He was leaving, but He wouldn't leave them as "orphans." In other words, He told them that even though He'd no longer be physically with them, He'd still be their Master and Teacher.

John 13:33 (ESV)

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. ..'

John 14:18-19 (ESV)

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

The words "Because I live, you also will live" make it clear that Jesus wasn't talking about seeing them after the resurrection; but being with them and in them through the Holy Spirit after Pentecost.

Look what He said next.

John 14:20 (ESV)

20 **In that day**, you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Jesus was telling His disciples why they would no longer need to rely on human teachers completely; because The Teacher would not be leaving them alone but coming to them in the person of the Holy Spirit.

During that time, disciples stayed with their Rabbis 24/7, learned from them constantly, became just like them, and took over their ministry. Jesus was telling them that the only thing changing was that He was relocating to a position inside them. From there, He is with them and teaches them 24/7, causing them to be just like their Master—Christlike—and carry on His ministry.

Jesus was straight up about this again when He said this:

John 6:45 (ESV)

45 It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—

Jesus is God the Son, and He is our Teacher!

Jesus was quoting from Isaiah:

Isaiah 54:13-17 (ESV)

13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.

14 In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Notice that just as Jesus called His disciples children, Jesus quotes from Isaiah—who uses the word “children”—but applies the verse to “Everyone” who comes to Him—all His present and future disciples!

Do you remember what I said about Jesus quoting from Isaiah? Isaiah 54:14 starts to describe the results of being taught and disciplined by Jesus from the inside out! Now that you have the key to Isaiah 54 you can find more of the mind-blowing fruit of being a disciple of Jesus, learning from Him, and becoming like Him.

We still have teachers, the Bible tells us that I’m one. However, those teachers are all to be our brothers and sisters, teaching what Jesus taught, and teaching us how to learn from Him, our exalted Teacher. As the Apostle John—who was a teacher—illustrated with this verse.

1 John 2:27 (ESV)

27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you.

But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, **abide in him.**

Life-Hack From Jesus

When you open your Bible, trust Him to teach you.

Each time you sit down to read or study your Bible go to Jesus first. Pray the verses above and thank Him for being your Teacher. Then ask Him to guide you and teach you in His Word and to help you understand and live what He teaches you. Now be still for a moment, listening to Him with your heart. Then open your Bible and continue to trust Him to teach you as you read and study.

After reading that, you may have quietly said, “But I don’t know enough about my Bible to really know where to read.” Good news, there’s a Life Hack from Jesus for that too. Let’s do that next.

2. Understand where in the Bible you're reading.

When we first approached the Bible, many of us—at first—assumed that it was like other books. So, we opened it up and started at the beginning with the goal of reading through to the end. Unfortunately, when we go in with that idea, we come out very confused.

Jesus understood that Father put the Bible together like a library, He embraced that and taught from it accordingly. In so doing, He taught us to know where we're reading, what we're reading, and what Father's purpose for each part was/is. Mixing that up can really mix up your understanding of the Bible.

In Jesus' time, the Old Testament was divided into three different segments, the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

Matthew 7:12 (ESV)

12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Luke 24:44 (ESV)

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

By clarifying which section or book of the Old Testament He was talking about, Jesus demonstrated that the different

sections had specific purposes, as well as overlapping purposes.

So, let's look at a detailed—but easy-to-remember—map of Father's Library.

The whole Bible is, first, a collection of 66 different books. Those books are divided into two major sections, The Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books).

The Word “Testament” means “Covenant.” The central historical context of the Old Testament is the Old Covenant that the Father made with the nation of Israel. The central historical context of the New Testament is the New Covenant in and through Christ Jesus. The Covenants, or Agreements between the parties involved, are very different (what is required, commanded, expected, promised etc.). So as Jesus demonstrated, we need to know where we're reading.

Now the Old Testament is often broken down further into general sub-categories, which helps us even more. I break it down this way, which is very easy to remember:

- 5 Books of Moses: Genesis to Deuteronomy (The Law, The Torah)
- 12 Books of History: Joshua to Esther
- 5 Books of Poetry: Job to Song of Solomon
- 5 Major Prophets: Isaiah to Daniel
- 12 Minor Prophets: Hosea to Malachi

This division is easy to recall, 5, 12, 5, 5, 12, especially when you say the numbers with a bit of a rhythm.

You can see that the books are put in categories; it's a library of books. They are not put in the order of a story, so you can't read them from Genesis to Malachi and expect a non-stop progressive story. They are not even put in chronological order. For example, you might expect the 17 prophetic books to be put in the order they were written. They are not; they're put in order of their size. The words "Major" and "Minor" don't describe the significance of the books, but their size.

Father also put the New Testament together in the same fashion.

- 5 History Books
- 4 Gospels: Matthew to John
- 1 History of the early Church: Acts
- 22 Epistles (Epistles means letters)
- 13 Pauline Epistles (Letters by Paul): Romans to Philemon
- 9 General Epistles (Letters written by others): Hebrews to Revelation

The Book of Revelation is often considered a prophetic book, but it was also written as a letter to churches.

Again, within the general categories, the books are arranged as they are for various reasons, such as from longest to shortest, who wrote the letter, and for the sake of doctrinal

structure: e.g. Romans being a good starting place for Paul's letters, and the Book of Revelation is considered a proper place to end.

So, to remember the divisions of the Bible, it's simply 5, 12, 5, 5, 12, 5, 22.

This library of 66 books was given to us by Father in many different literary styles, over a period of 1500 years, through about 40 different people. Yet, we have it today as one complete book that tells the story of the creation, fall, redemption, and future of humankind without a single contradiction; and that story is chronological. Only God could do that, especially since most of the writers that God used didn't know the end of the story while they were being used to pen their portion. The only Author possible is the One who knows the end from the beginning!

Now that you've seen how the Bible is assembled, I'll give you a few examples of how Jesus demonstrated the importance of understanding that when you're reading and/or studying it.

In Matthew 12:39 and 24:15, Jesus talks about a prophetic picture from the life of the Prophet Jonah and a prophecy from the Prophet Daniel. His treatment of the material shows us that how we read and understand prophetic books is unique.

In Matthew 19:3-9 Jesus quoted Father's words from the first part of Genesis to teach that God's original intent for marriage did not include divorce. Then He explained why God allowed Moses—in contradiction of God's own intent—to allow divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). Jesus explained that the reason Father allowed divorce was because of the hardness of humankind's heart. Jesus was not only teaching us about divorce but also how to navigate and understand Father's library.

Firstly, Jesus shows us that Father's original intent for humankind can be found in the first part of Genesis. Secondly, He shows us that once Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden, humankind was separated from Father and His love and therefore had "hard hearts." So, we see that Father's original intent was interrupted by sin and the sin nature.

Jesus' treatment of these scriptures also shows us that we must read the Books of The Law, remembering that it was written to and for those with hard hearts or fallen natures. Again, without understanding where and what you're reading, you would be simply confused about what the Bible says about divorce.

Here's another example. The Israelites were in a Covenant with God. That Covenant included the promise of God's protection. When the Israelites served God faithfully and trusted Him, they were protected from calamity and from

their enemies. Promises like Psalm 91 were theirs when they trusted and obeyed.

Jesus was without sin and, as an Israelite, served and trusted God perfectly. That's why no one could harm Him in any way until He started the process of laying His life down for us. When an angry mob in His hometown tried to throw Him off a cliff, He just walked away. When the Jews came to arrest Him, He merely spoke, and they all fell backward on the ground. He let them know that He could call for angels (Psalm 91) and He'd be rescued. However, He went with them willingly for our sake. When Pilate claimed to have the power to crucify Him, Jesus told Him clearly that he'd have no power over Him at all if He wasn't supposed to be there.

We as Christians are "in Christ Jesus," the actual "Secret Place of the Most High" (Psalm 91:1; Colossians 3:3), and the New Testament clearly says that all of God's promises are ours in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). Father's protection is ours as we truly believe and trust Him for it.

Having established that foundation, let's talk about Job for a minute. The book of Job is considered by most as the oldest book in the Bible. It was written before Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Which means it predates both the Old and New Covenants. When David faced trouble but was walking with the Lord, He always relied on Father based on the Covenant they had (2 Samuel 23:5).

However, there is no mention of a covenant in the book of Job, nor does Job ever mention relying on his Covenant

and/or the promises that God made to him. That's simply because God had made no promises to Job, nor had He entered into a Covenant with him. Job's whole argument before God was that he himself was blameless. Job relied on his own righteousness (Job 9:20), and the Bible says, "There's none righteous, no not one" because we were all born in Adam, inheritors of the fallen nature; only Jesus could save us.

In fact, the key to understanding Job is in a handful of simple verses (Job 9:33; 16:19-21; 19:25) where Job says that he needs a mediator, a redeemer, to stand between him and God. The book of Job points to humankind's sin and our need for a Mediator and Redeemer. Job was born with original sin and was under the devil's tyranny; he could not earn God's favor or protection.

So, Job is a beautiful and wonderful book that points to humankind's absolute need for Jesus.

Therefore, for a Christian who has received the Mediator and Redeemer, and who is relying on Jesus and not his own righteousness before God; and who has entered the New Covenant in Christ, to identify with Job and say that he is suffering like Job did, demonstrates a misunderstanding of the Bible library. That would be similar to a Christian reading the Books of the Law and concluding that animal sacrifice was still necessary.

Here are some other brief examples of how we need to recognize where and what we're reading:

Doctrine cannot be formed from the history sections of the Bible alone. This seems simple when it's obvious. Just because the Bible records that someone killed someone for treating them incorrectly doesn't mean we should. The New Testament teaches otherwise. However, sometimes the doctrine we try and pull from the Bible's history sections isn't so obvious.

For example, the book of Acts is a history of the Early Church. At one point, the text says that they sold their stuff and held everything in common (Acts 4:32). To take that and form a doctrine around it when it's not commanded or recommended in any other part of the Bible is an incorrect use of the Library. History is merely history unless the text draws a conclusion and gives us related instruction that applies to us today,

Jesus fulfilled the law. For example, He was the ultimate sacrifice, and all Old Testament sacrifices pointed to Him. So, there's no need to set up an altar in your church parking lot. It's also incorrect to scour the Books of the Law and pick out laws that you'd randomly like to have applied today. For example, you can't say that God forbids tattoos but then say it's okay for women to go out in public during their time of the month; the law equally forbids both things. As a New Covenant believer, you're either under the Old Testament law, or you're not. The things that are carried forward from

the Law—such as loving God and your neighbor—are defined in the New Testament.

One more example: The Book of Proverbs is a book of wise and godly principles. Sometimes it presents promises, but it's mostly made up of principles. For example, it teaches that hard workers will become rich. We should not view that principle as a promise but as a principle.

There are biblical promises that promise us Father's blessing, and while we're trusting Him for those promises, we should apply wise principles. But understanding the difference is important. To mix them up gives us the idea that God can bless us by working for it.

Obviously, what is clearly commanded by Jesus, and given as instruction from God in the New Testament, is to be embraced and lived by His grace.

I think you get the idea. It's important that we're aware of the different parts of Father's library because, as Jesus demonstrated, it's essential to understand, apply, and live it correctly.

Life-Hack From Jesus

Spend some time learning the different books and categories in the library of the Bible. As you learn that, you'll be able to understand better every verse you read every time you open up your Bible.

Take a minute and ask the Lord right now to teach you this.

3. The single-thread story of the Bible.

When Jesus walked this earth, He knew that the entire Bible was the story of humankind's creation, fall, redemption, and future. He knew that Father's objective in giving us the Bible was to help us truly understand this redemptive narrative and thereby embrace it and take our part in it.

He also knew that He was the key figure, the main character, and the story's focus.

Understanding this—as Jesus did—helps us to see every verse as pointing to Him, us in Him, and what Father wants us to do now that Jesus has come.

Look at these verses:

John 5:38-40 (HCSB)

38 You don't have His word living in you because you don't believe the One He sent. 39 You **pore over** the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about Me. 40 And you are not willing to come to Me so that you may have life.

Jesus told those that were rejecting Him that He was their Hope of redemption and that in order to both understand scripture and receive everything God intended for us, they needed to see Him in scripture and believe.

After His resurrection, Jesus walked His disciples through the Old Testament and showed them Himself pictured, promised, and prophesied about again and again. He told them that He and what He did on our behalf was the key and focus of Father's plan and His Word; ALL of His Word.

Luke 24:25-27 (HCSB)

25 He said to them, "How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts ALL that the prophets have spoken! 26 Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?" 27 Then, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in ALL the Scriptures.

He not only showed Himself and God's plan in and through Him as the key, but He also showed that He fulfilled, or set in motion the fulfillment of, everything the Old Testament talked about.

Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Nothing was wrong with Father's Word or needed to be changed. It just needs to be read as one progressive revelation of Father's plan.

There was always just one plan from before the foundation of the earth, and Jesus, and our complete redemption in Him,

was always it. Therefore, that truth is the number one interpretive key of the entire Bible.

The Bible has only ONE Author, who had only ONE plan, ONE message, and ONE intended outcome for humankind. Jesus understood that and therefore saw Himself and Father's Plan A (there never was a Plan B) in every verse of the Bible and therefore understood it clearly.

The scripture identifies that Father's plan was always Jesus and us being brought into Him.

1 Peter 1:20 (ESV)

20 He was **foreknown before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.

Ephesians 1:3-5 (ESV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Jesus was the fulfillment of all Old Testament scripture because every passage pictured, anticipated, and talked about Him, and what He would accomplish for us and in us now and for all eternity. The Old Testament contains—depending on how you count—between 300 and over 500

prophecies about Jesus, His time on this earth, and what He would accomplish for us. This includes the plethora of prophetic pictures of Jesus, which He Himself invited us to discover.

John 3:14-15 (HCSB)

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

Matthew 12:39-40 (ESV)

39 But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

That single plan from the Old Testament is carried forward in the New Testament. The Old Testament is cited, partially quoted or referred to thousands of times in the New Testament.

Plan A never changed. It was hidden in the Old and revealed in Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit in the New.

Therefore, the New Testament hands us the keys to seeing in the Old Testament the completeness of what we have been given in Christ. As we looked at earlier, all you need to do is look at each verse in the Old in light of what the New reveals;

and the New in light of what is further revealed by the context of those Old Testament verses. Every word is placed lovingly in the right place, revealing the truth to those who trust Him.

So, we read the Old to see all the different pieces of Plan A, and as we read that together with the New, we see the whole picture.

Jesus gave us the keys to understanding the whole Bible. Since there was only one Author and only one plan, the narrative, theme and progression of the Bible never changed. We can, therefore, always find the keys to understanding every passage by remembering that.

This truth is singularly amazing because every truth in the Old Testament pointed to Jesus and us in Christ Jesus, yet the ones chosen by Father to pen the 39 books of the Old, did not understand what they were writing down.

1 Peter 1:10-12 (ESV)

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

The writers wrote but didn't see it. Angels didn't even understand the depth and details of what was being written, yet now — after it happened — it can be seen perfectly as the singular narrative of the Old. This truth again irrefutably demonstrates the impossibility of the Bible being authored by man!

Once you see Father's Plan A — which none of the OT writers complexly understood — all the types, pictures, and other literary devices of the Old — which all seemingly helped to conceal the truth — now reveal truth; as we explore them all through the lens of His glorious narrative.

Just as we saw in looking more closely at the book of Job, without knowing the keys that Jesus gave us for simply understanding the Bible, the Book of Job is a mystery. However, in understanding and using the keys, we see Jesus, the Gospel, and Plan A in Job, and its mysteries are unlocked.

Life-Hack From Jesus

Jesus has invited you to open His Word and trust Him to help you see Him and Father's Plan A in every part of scripture and to let Him use that to open every mystery of His Word to you.

Ask Him to take you deeper using this amazing truth-revealing tool.

4. The Bible is God's Word, and you can trust every single word.

Unfortunately, many struggle with or even argue against, the parts of the Father's Word they can't understand and/or the parts that they see as opposing their current understanding. That of course, leads us down a path of trying to decide—with our minds—which parts of God's Word are from God and which are not.

Jesus did not do that.

Jesus had the same Old Testament—in content—that we have today, and yet He never questioned any of it. In fact, He demonstrated that every word, right down to each individual word, could be trusted as having come from Father.

Matthew 19:4-5 (ESV)

4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? (Genesis 2:24)

By doing this, Jesus attested to the Books of Moses as Father's words and specifically confirmed the Genesis account of creation.

I once read someone say that Jesus quoted Genesis as truth because He didn't yet understand the science. Yikes! The

One who the Bible says created the world (Hebrews 1:2), who—as a man—had been learning from God, and His Word through the Holy Spirit since birth; the One who knew Father so intimately that He said they were One, the One who grew to understand all of who He was while He was still here (John 8:58; 13:3), didn't know the truth?

Jesus gave us a simple life-changing truth and the key to understanding truth: Every word of the Bible is truly Father's Word and is absolutely true.

In this following example, Jesus brings an understanding of the Word right down to each word and the way each word is written.

Matthew 22:29, 31-32 (HCSB)

29 Jesus answered them, "You are deceived, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God.

31 Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by God: 32 I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

Because of the exact wording, and even the tense of this sentence, "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob," Jesus was able to confidently conclude that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive and well. Even though the verse He used was not originally written to determine the lives of the patriarchs beyond their graves, Jesus was able to use it to settle the issue. Why?

Because He didn't question the truth of the Old Testament being Father's Word in every detail,

Jesus simply recognized all of God's Word, and every word of it, as God's book, and that—as just demonstrated—became a key to understanding everything in and through God's Word.

For many of you, this may seem basic; however, there's an important but powerful Bible interpretation rule that comes out of this fact that is often overlooked. When you understand what Jesus taught about this, you'll be able to more clearly understand your Bible the way Father intended for you too.

If there is only One Author and One Plan—unveiled progressively—and every word is placed on purpose, then all scripture must be viewed together as coming from only One super-intelligent Author, who never changed His plan. In which case—which is the case according to Jesus—then we can find the truth about any topic in the Bible by studying it in that light. For example, the topic of divorce, which we already looked at briefly.

When you run with this truth—as you see me doing in this min-e-book PDF—and trust Him to teach you, then every topic in the Bible will start to open up to you.

Do you see how you're witnessing me follow Jesus with this interpretative principle right now as you read? The Bible is

God's Word right down to every word. Therefore, grab a topic; in this case, my topic is the Bible itself. Everything the Bible says about the Bible—taken together—reveals everything we need to know about His Word.

Since the Bible reveals Jesus as our Teacher, and since every word recorded is God's words, it's safe to look at everything Jesus said about His Father's book and how He used it and quoted from it as a guide to the entire Bible.

Well, how about the New Testament, some might ask? Jesus demonstrated His knowledge of the coming New Testament when He said this:

Matthew 26:12-13 (ESV)

12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

There could have only been one way to preserve a small story from a small part of the world and have it told in every language and in the whole world, and that was to add it to the most translated and distributed book in the whole world.

Also, the record of the New Testament speaks of and demonstrates God's keeping hand. The same keeping hand that kept the Old Testament.

Today the reliability of an ancient manuscript (a book) is measured based on the copies and pieces of copies available today. The two big questions asked are how much time passed between the writing of the manuscript and the earliest copy we now have; and how many old copies or parts of copies do we have to compare.

Based on this criteria, Homer's Iliad is considered the second most reliable Ancient Greek manuscript. It was written in 900 BC, and the earliest copy we have today is from 400 BC. So, the gap between the original manuscript and the oldest copy we have is 500 years. The number of old copies or part copies we have is 643. When these copies are compared to each other, they reveal that the internal accuracy of the book—or its keeping—is 95%. With these numbers, which are considered outstanding, few doubt the historicity and accuracy of the Iliad.

The New Testament outdoes the Iliad by far! The earliest copies or pieces in existence date from only one hundred years from their writing. There are over 5,600 copies and parts of copies (and that's just in Greek), and the comparison of these copies demonstrates an internal accuracy of 99.5%.

The Iliad: 400 years / 643 copies / 95% accuracy; and no doubt.

The New Testament: less than 100 years / 5,600 copies / 99.5% accuracy; and NO doubt!

The same fingerprints of the “Keeping Hand” that kept the Old Testament are on the New Testament.

However, an even bigger testimony of the New Testament being God’s Word is the fact that, taken together, the Old and the New perfectly collate to reveal the full truth of Father’s Plan A. The One who gave us and kept the Old Testament is the same One who faithfully gave us and kept the New Testament. Both together were always His plan because, without the two, His Plan A would not be fully revealed to us, the ones He put the Bible together for.

Jesus is the eternal Son of God, and He revealed that every word of the Bible could be trusted as His Father’s Word. This truth will lead you into amazing revelation as you read, study and rely on Him in His Word!

Life-Hack From Jesus

Start loving and tearing apart your Bible digging for truth in every topic and in every word. Start by using cross-references, keywords, and phrases, to find New Testament references to Old Testament passages. Then dig deeper by looking at both Old and New passages together.

Yes, continue to be mindful of the place where you find each passage in the library, but then use that understanding to collate each verse in your topical study properly.

Also, when reading in the Old, look for Plan A; it's hidden everywhere.

And keep trusting Jesus to Teach you and reveal the truth—about everything—to you. He hid it in His Word in plain sight for you to discover.

5. Jesus' approach to the Bible was SIMPLE!

Psalm 110:1 is the most quoted and/or referred to Old Testament verse in the New Testament. Before it was that, Jesus used it to stump the Jewish leaders, who regularly tried to stump Him with questions. The question Jesus asked about that verse again reveals much about how to read and study the Bible.

Matthew 22:42-45 (ESV)

42 ...saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

44 "The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?"

Of course, the now-known answer is that the Messiah, the Christ, was both the Son of David—fully man—and the Son of God—fully God. So, David called the Messiah, born in his own lineage, Lord.

However, don't overlook what you've learned so far. Even though no one—at that time—could figure that verse out, Jesus revealed how He came to understand it—yes, by trusting Father to teach Him—but also by knowing that every word is there for a reason. He also saw Himself—the Messiah—and Plan A as keys to deciphering the verse's

meaning. And finally, He was seeking to understand that one verse, in light of all the other verses in the Old Testament, that reveals that our Savior and King would be God.

Now that we know the truth of the verse, we can dig even deeper into the meaning of the second part of the verse, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet,” by examining the rest of Psalm 110, and all of the other New Testament verses that reference this verse. Jesus’ question about this verse is an invitation from the Holy Spirit to dig deeper. I’ll leave you to that study; it’s a good one.

What I wanted to point out here is how confident Jesus was in His interpretation and understanding of the Word. He not only made it look simple, but He made it simple.

Let’s look at a couple of the other verses—that we’ve looked at earlier—that Jesus not only easily understood but also used to show us that we should also easily understand the Bible.

Matthew 22:29, 31-32 (HCSB)

29 Jesus answered them, “You are deceived because you don’t know the Scriptures or the power of God.

31 Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven’t you read what was spoken to you by God:

32 I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

Notice the words, "... because you don't know the Scriptures..." Now that you know that every word counts, let's dig deeper into this phrase. The obvious implication behind that statement was that they should have known the Scriptures.

Isn't it funny that we still today are intimidated by scripture and think that truly understanding it is beyond our ability? Even though Father wrote it for us and gave us Jesus as our Teacher to help us in the process. The simple truth is that understanding His Word is easy when we follow our Master's keys, trust Him to teach us, and believe that it's easy.

Jesus also said this...

Luke 24:25-27 (HCSB)

25 He said to them, "How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?" 27 Then, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Wow! Jesus just called those who don't truly believe everything the prophets wrote by the Spirit unwise and slow to believe. Then He taught His disciples what it all meant. Again, Jesus just told all of us—His disciples—that we SHOULD understand and believe all of the prophecies in the Bible; and that He's willing to teach us how. Yet again, today,

we read our “chapter a day” through the prophets, only understanding a fraction of what we read.

Let’s pick up our reading again a few verses later...

Luke 24:44-45 (ESV)

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 **Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,**

We can trust Him as our Teacher to open our minds to understand the scriptures, or we can continue to be unwise and slow to believe.

Even with all my Christian book sales and success as a Bible teacher, I always approached the Bible, thinking that I would never be able to understand it all, and I saw parts of it as way beyond my pay grade. And frankly, I spend a lot of time reading passages that I thought I’d never fully understand.

Then Jesus showed up—and simply by His grace—started teaching me. He not only opened the Word and gave me understanding, but He taught me—from the Bible—how to properly interpret the Bible. As He did, He taught me that He wants to do this for all His kids.

Honestly, it still amazes me! Even today, I ask Him what a section of scripture or a biblical concept means and trust

Him to teach me. Then I follow His keys and His Spirit in a study, and I always end up finding the answer. After all those years of struggling and being convinced that truly understanding the Bible was beyond me, it shocks and delights me daily at how easy it is to read, study and understand with His help.

Father made the Bible for us to communicate with us. He didn't make it impossible for us to access it; that would have defeated the purpose. He didn't make it the way books are usually made and structured. He did this on purpose so that only those who trust and walk with the Teacher could understand. Jesus found it simple to understand because He trusted and yielded to Father. Then He showed us that we could easily understand in the same way by trusting and yielding to Him.

Life-Hack From Jesus

Trust Jesus as your Teacher and ask Him to make it all easy to understand. But be willing to yield as well. Many of my previous thoughts about Father, life, and the Bible have been dismantled and replaced, and that process has changed me from the inside out and made my life amazing! His Word is powerful; it'll do that.

Join me.

6. The purpose of God's Word is your transformation!

One of Jesus' well-known parables is called the "Parable of The Sower." It's about someone sowing seeds on various kinds of soil. Jesus reveals that the seed He's really talking about is God's Word.

Mark 4:14 (ESV)

14 The sower sows the word.

Jesus also lets us know that the soil represents people.

Mark 4:20 (ESV)

20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

After Jesus finished telling the parable, His disciples asked Him why He always taught in parables. In the answer Jesus gave, we are told that the audience that was listening to His parable went away without understanding it.

Matthew 13:11 (ESV)

11 And he answered them, "To you, it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them, it has not been given.

Clearly, no one in the audience was "good soil." In fact, neither were the disciples.

Mark 4:13 (ESV)

13 And he said to them (the disciples), “Do you not understand this parable? How, then, will you understand all the parables?”

So, Jesus, the Sower, sowed a bunch of Seed, and no one that was present was good soil. Jesus told the disciples that it was given to them to understand, but they didn't, at least not then.

Jesus wasn't telling a parable about people's willingness or unwillingness to hear and understand the Word. He was talking about the soil of our hearts and what He was about to do to change that.

Look what the prophet Ezekiel said God would do on the inside of us in the New Covenant.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (ESV)

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

In His parable, Jesus was pointing out that the good soil was something He was about to provide. No one present—when He told the parable—had good soil because they weren't

born again. They all still had their old fallen nature or hearts of stone.

Jesus was also—as He always did—teaching from His Father’s Word.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Read all of Isaiah 55. It starts with a call that Jesus quoted, in another place (John 7:37), “Come, everyone who thirsts...” In the parable, Jesus calls out, “He who has ears, let him hear.” Both verses 2 and 3 in Isaiah 55, call for the reader to “Listen diligently” and to “Incline their ear.” Isaiah 55:3 gives us the context, the “Everlasting Covenant,” which is the New Covenant. Then verses 7 and 8 establish that the thoughts and ways of the wicked are not God’s ways and thoughts—not good soil.

Then these verses...

Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring

forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Like rain from heaven gives seed to the sower and therefore bread to the eater, so God's Word gives seed to the Sower, our Teacher, and it will not return to Father void but will accomplish Father's purpose for it.

What is that purpose?

Mark 4:20 (ESV)

20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

Its purpose is to land on good soil and produce huge fruit in us and in our lives!

Isaiah 55:13 says it this way, "Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle."

From thorns to mighty trees, that's quite the contrast!

Jesus uses a growing crop metaphor. Paul said it this way...

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern

what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

As our minds are changed by His Word we are transformed!

We renew our mind by receiving the “implanted” Word.

James 1:21 (HCSB)

Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and evil, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save you.

The implanted Word is the Word that Jesus the Sower and our Teacher plants in our new-soil hearts. He plants it, renews our minds with it and transforms us.

The purpose of His Word is our transformation and the transformation of our lives, and it won't return to Him void; but will produce a 30, 60 or 100-fold return. The problem is, how can the Sower, sow the seed of His Word and Teach us if we believe that we can't understand the seed? When we believe that—even though we've been forgiven and given new hearts—we become like the unsaved people who walked away from Jesus' parable not understanding and unchanged. We are the good soil! We're meant to understand and produce a crop.

Look at something else Paul said about getting your mind renewed...

Ephesians 4:20-24 (HCSB)

20 But that is not how you learned about the Messiah, 21 assuming you heard about Him and were taught by Him, because the truth is in Jesus. 22 You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; 23 you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; 24 you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

Paul outlines the transformation process here, which leads to us being more and more like Jesus. It starts with us being taught about Him, then being taught by Him. In order to have that happen, we need to start believing that Jesus can and will open His Word to us, Teach us, cause our minds to be renewed, and transform us.

Life-Hack From Jesus

If you haven't already, put away the idea that you can't understand God's Word and ask the Sower to sow the seed of His Word in your new heart, to teach you, renew your mind and transform you and your life. Thank Him that you are the good soil. He paid the price to make your heart new, and He's ready to start teaching you!

7. Come to Jesus and trust Him to give you rest.

I need to be VERY clear about something. By man's measure, I'm an average man, a regular guy. I haven't gone to seminary, and I don't have an outstanding IQ. What I have is God's love and everything that Jesus provided for me through His work on my behalf.

I know His Word, and I'm growing in the Knowledge of Him, and in knowing Him every day, not because of who I am or what I've accomplished, but because of who Jesus is and what He did for me!

It's not what you have going for you or what you think you have going against you that will help you or stop you from walking in everything you've read here; it's all ONLY by His grace through faith.

Romans 4:16 (ESV)

16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all...

Him being your Teacher, revealing Himself to you, opening His Word to you, and transforming you and your life through it, is all by promise. And as with every promise we have in Christ Jesus, it's by grace, through faith, that it might be guaranteed! This means it's given to you as a gift, you need to believe it and start walking in it.

Father did it this way so that He could guarantee every promise in Christ. In other words, if it depended on us, our work, our ability, etc., we'd find a way to doubt our worthiness and mess it up. It's a free gift, simply believe it and start walking in it. When it doesn't look like it's happening, keep believing and keep moving.

A little earlier, we looked at Ezekiel 36:25-27. Jesus was summarizing this passage when He talked about being born again. It talks about Father cleansing us, giving us a new heart and spirit, removing our heart of stone, and giving us a heart of flesh. Then the first part of verse 27 tells us that Father will put His Spirit within us. The second part of that verse is often read too quickly.

Ezekiel 36:27 (ESV)

27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Father states that He will put His Holy Spirit within us and then says that He will CAUSE US to walk in His way and in obedience to Him. It doesn't say He'll require us to perform, but that He'll work in us by His Spirit and CAUSE US to be His amazing children. Earlier in the same Prophecy (verse 23), Father says that HE WILL demonstrate His holiness IN US!

Father was talking about the New Covenant of grace! Where He makes us new and puts His Spirit within us to teach and transform us from within, by grace through faith. When we're

born again, we're given a new heart with a new nature (2 Peter 1:4), His nature! He makes us new, gives us His Spirit and nature, and teaches us from within, causing us and transforming us into who He created us to be, His kids!

Paul was referring to this amazing prophecy when He penned these verses:

Philippians 2:12-13 (HCSB)

12 ...work out (bring to completion) your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 (NLT) For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Every part of our salvation, including having Jesus as our Teacher, opening His Word to us, and teaching us, is by grace through faith and it's guaranteed! Guaranteed because His Spirit works in us and causes us to want to do, and causes us to do, His will, as we trust Him.

So, Rick, where does Jesus teach this? I'm glad you asked!

Matthew 11:25-26, 28-29 (ESV)

25 At that time, Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will...

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Let's look at this verse by verse.

In verse 25, Jesus thanks Father that He has hidden the truth from those who think they are wise and understand (bad soil). Hidden what truth—“these things,” everything Jesus knew from the Word by the Spirit, and taught in mysteries and parables because no one could even begin to understand until we were made new and had His Spirit.

Hidden from who? From those who thought they were wise enough to figure it out (and walk it out) in their own ability. Then Jesus thanked Father that His plan was to reveal the truth to little children. Remember that from earlier? Little children is what the Master called his disciples! And notice that Jesus didn't say that Father would help us—disciples—figure it out, but that He'd “reveal” it to us. It was always Father's will to give us the truth about everything freely and to have Jesus our Teacher reveal it to us, through His Word, by His Spirit within us!

Then verse 28, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Rest!? REST!! We've struggled and labored trying to figure things out, to understand, to know, and do things right so that we could see ourselves whole and see our lives work. But it seems that the harder we try, the more heavy-laden or burdened-down we've become. Jesus calls us to Himself and promises us rest from the struggle.

How do we get that rest? Let's look at verse 29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

A yoke is a piece of farming equipment used to harness two oxen together so that they can pull a plow. The yoke is designed to help the two oxen move as one, so the load is easier to pull. When you come to Jesus, you're put in Him, and He comes in you by His Spirit and you become one. He then teaches you (learn from me), reveals the truth about everything, and works transformation in you.

You're also united with Jesus through His Spirit so that He walks with you and helps you in every part of life. As you learn to walk with Him and learn from Him, the struggle stops, and you begin to walk in the REST that Father created us to walk in. We were created as His children, we were never meant to be, or built to be, separated from Him through sin, struggling to figure it all out and do it on our own; without a clue or a way to receive the seed.

Come to Him, learn from Him, and let Him give you rest! It's all by grace through faith, and it's guaranteed. Let Him do it in you!

Life-Hack From Jesus

If you've never come to Jesus, or you've never understood this, and come to Him to learn and receive rest, pray this prayer.

Lord Jesus, I thank you that you died to pay the price for the sin that separated me from you. Please forgive me. Father, thank you for forgiving me of all my sin so that I can be united with you again as your child. I welcome you, Holy Spirit! Please fill me.

Jesus, please come and teach me everything about everything from your Word, work your will in me, transform me, and give me your rest. Please cause me to walk with you and in your rest in every part of my life. From this day forward, you are my Lord and Teacher, and I am your disciple! Thank you, Jesus!

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