

The Good Book: Immediate Context  
Christy Penley  
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**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**Communication always occurs inside a specific context**

Immediate context refers to the relationship of a passage to the material before and after it.

\*When have you missed the context of something that led to a misunderstanding in your life?

\*Are there times you've forgotten or chosen not to work to understand immediate context when reading the Bible?

\*What verses can you think of that regularly are taken out of context?

**When we ignore immediate context, we can misinterpret what the Bible is saying**

Read and discuss Mark 10:27 (NIV)

*27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

\*Reading only this verse, what might we take it to mean? How would we potentially apply it for ourselves or share with others?

Now read and discuss Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)

*17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"*

*20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

*23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"*

*24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." 26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"*

*27 **Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."** 28 Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" 29 "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."*

\*How does reading a little bigger help your understanding of verse 27? How do you see that context controls the meaning?

\*What are some reasons we wouldn't or don't consider context?

\*What is the harm in taking a verse out of context?

\*What are some good questions we can ask to make sure we are considering the immediate context?