

FIRST MENTION

2 Timothy 2: 15 NIV – Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

DESCRIPTION

The Law of First mention is a guideline for accurate study of the Bible.

This technique proposes that tracing any particular word, subject, person, thing, imagery or metaphor back to the first time it is mentioned in Scripture can give us a clearer comprehension of how God regards that thing. Understandably, the majority of "first mentions" will be found in Genesis, the Book whose name means "beginnings." However, "first mentions" can be found in other books of the Bible. Actually, a weakness of this technique is that the Bible is not always presented in chronological order so this leaves a little room for interpretation.

Practicing First Mention is about tracing Biblical concepts back to their origin so that we gain insight into how they have developed and continue to progress over the course of God's history with mankind.

EXAMPLE

Scripture Selection: Hebrews 11:4: By faith **Abel** brought **God** a better **offering** than Cain did. By faith he was commended as **righteous**, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

The highlighted words have been identified for First Mention research.

1. Abel – Genesis 4:2 – passage about Abel's birth
2. God – Genesis 1:1 – passage about creation
3. Offering – Genesis 4:3 – passage about Abel's offering
4. Righteous – Genesis 6:9 – passage about Noah



PURPOSE:

To accurately understand God's meaning and imagery used in Biblical texts.

To read the Bible objectively and impartially seeking out what God is speaking.

To identify key themes in the Bible and how they fit into the greater picture of redemption.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Deeper knowledge of God through His Word.

Increased revelation of God's purposes for mankind.

Improved understanding of what God is speaking through His Word.

Increased wisdom from God for righteous living.

Greater faith through hearing the Word of God.

PRAYER

Father, thank you sent Jesus to fill me with the Holy Spirit who leads me in all truth. I ask now that you open my mind to understand your Word and grant me a greater measure of the spirit of wisdom and revelation as I grow in my knowledge of you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PRACTICE

1. As you read your Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a particular word, thing, or person to you within the passage you are reading. (We'll call this the "Passage.")
2. Can you think of another place besides your Passage in Scripture that this person, place, or thing was mentioned? If so, what does that reveal? Are there prior instances?
 - If needed, use a concordance or online tool like blueletterbible.org, biblestudytools.com, or biblehub.com to research the *first time* in Scripture this word, thing or person is mentioned. (We'll call this the "Mention.")
3. Read the text surrounding the Mention you discovered. You may have to read the chapters leading up to or following the Mention to understand it in its proper context.
4. Return to your Passage and read it again. Consider the following:
 - How does the Mention clarify the use of this word, thing or person in your Passage?
 - Does the Mention alter or confirm your interpretation of what God is speaking through your Passage? If so, how?
 - Has researching the Mention unveiled topics for further research about this word, thing, or person in Scripture to gain deeper insight? If so, what topics?

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

1 Corinthians 2:13

Romans 15:4

Colossians 2:17

Hebrews 10:1