

A person is rappelling down a large, textured rock face. The person is silhouetted against a clear, teal-colored sky. The rock face is on the left side of the image, and the person is on the right, suspended by ropes. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and challenge.

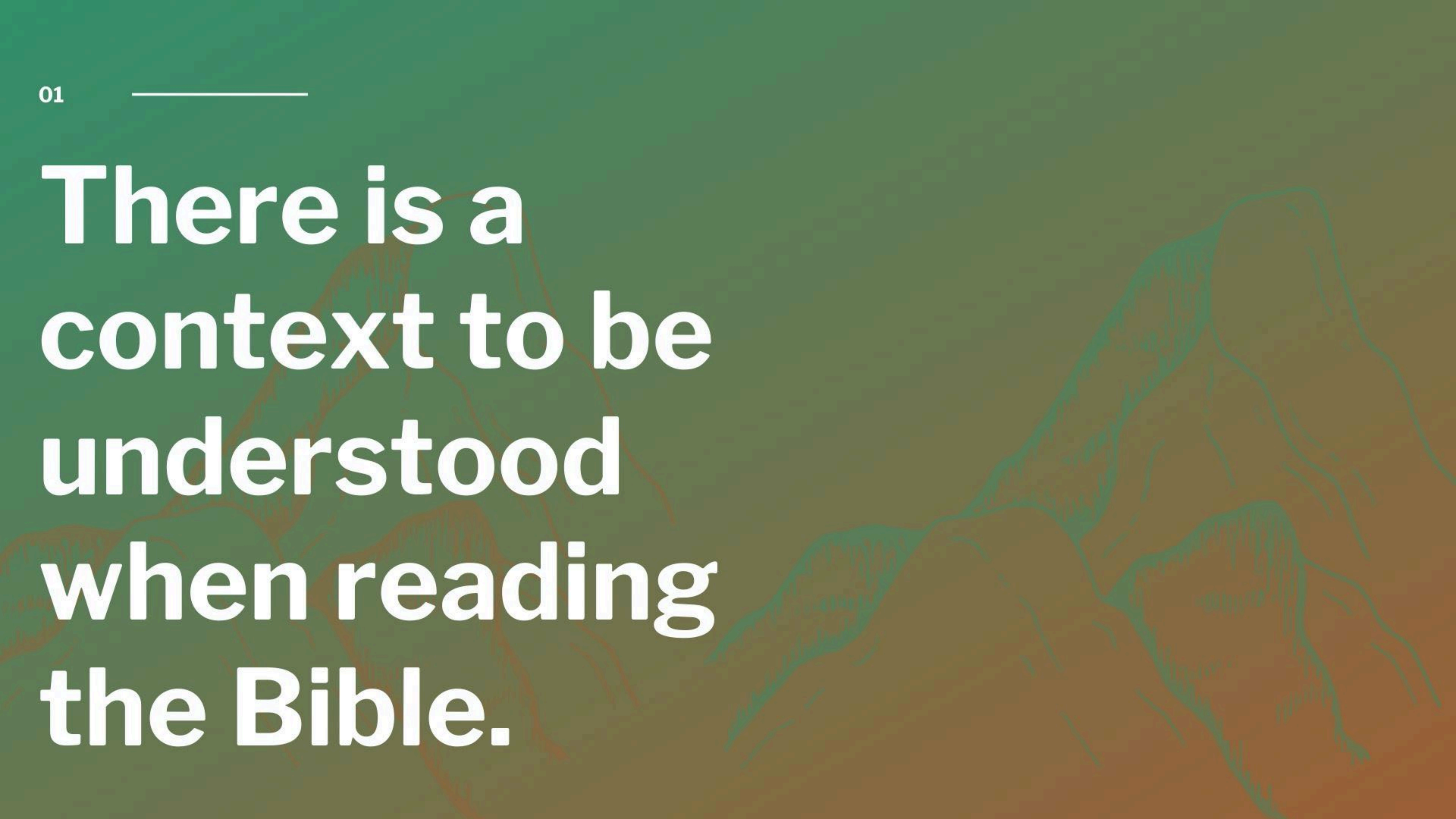
THRIVING
NOT JUST SURVIVING

A person is rappelling down a large, textured rock face. The rock is a warm, reddish-brown color. The person is silhouetted against a clear, teal-colored sky. They are holding onto a rope that is anchored to the rock. The person's legs are spread out, and they appear to be in motion. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and exploration.

THRIVING

in the HIDDEN PLACES

**There is a
context to be
understood
when reading
the Bible.**



**It is a male dominated society,
so the relationship between God
and man was always going to be
a public one.**

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "**Woman, here is your son,**" and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**" A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus's lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise it was Jesus.

He asked her, "**Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?**"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "**Mary.**"

**Jesus' actions are a message to women:
You are not going to miss out on a relationship with me.**

Jesus meets people in the hidden places.

I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go right up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride on the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.

I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night. But even in the darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

It has less to do with where you are, and more to do with allowing God to rule you where you are.

**"...while not
all of us may
procreate, all
of us can be
productive."**

**'The Economics of Neighbourly
Love' - Tom Nelson**