



## **Bible Handling Skills**

### **Week 2**

#### **Learning To Read**

*'All scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'*

– 2 Timothy 3:16

# Asking the Holy Spirit for help

We are reading God's Word – we should ask for God's help to understand what He is saying to us.

## Reading what is there

Seeing what the Bible says for its self, rather than assuming we already know, or don't have a hope of understanding.

'I went to the shops to buy some milk because we had run out after making cups of tea for everyone, but it was Gary's birthday therefore we needed to make a cake. '

- Put down in chronological order what happened.
- What was the motivation behind the actions?

What does it say?

What does it mean?

What does it mean for me?

## Example – 1 Samuel 16-17 – Saul, David and Goliath

- Who is Saul?
- Who is David?
- What is the situation in chapter 17?
- How does Saul react and what does he do?
- How do all of Israel react?
- How does David react differently and what does he do?
- What do you think this passage meant to its original hearers?

What does it tell them about God? What does it tell them about God's people? What does it tell them about the kind of leader they need?

- What do you think this passage means to us?

What does it tell us about God? What does it tell us about God's people? What does it tell us about about the kind of leader we need?

# Reading in context

Can we just choose the edited highlights?

How does the context help us to understand these verses rightly?

*'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'* – (Jeremiah 29:11)

*'There is no God'* – (Psalm 14:1)

*'Therefore, as one trespass [Adam] led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness [Christ] leads to justification and life for all men.'* – (Romans 5:18)

## Implications

4. Immediate context

3. Passage/chapter/book

2. Authors comments

1. Whole Bible context

## Example – John 20:24-29 – Thomas

- What doesn't Thomas believe?
- Who doesn't He believe?

What do we know about them? Are they trustworthy?

- Having now seen Jesus (vs 26-29) do you think that Thomas was sensible not to have believed the other disciples?
- How does Jesus view belief without having seen?
- How do John's comments in vs 30-31 help us understand the point of this example of Thomas?
- How might you answer a friend who said to you "I'd love to be a Christian, but I'm like Thomas, I need to see for myself before I'll believe!"

# Reading different genres

## How do the varied ways the Bible is written affect our understanding?

*'For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands'*

– Isaiah 55:12

*'When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. But he said to them, "it is I; do not be afraid".'*

– John 6:19-20

## Types of Biblical Genre

- Historical Narrative (e.g. Genesis)
  - Gospel (e.g. Matthew)
- Law (e.g. Leviticus)
- Wisdom (e.g. Job)
- Poetry (e.g. Psalms)
- Prophecy (e.g. Isaiah)
  - Apocalyptic (e.g. Revelation)
- Epistle/letter (e.g. Romans)
- Sermon (e.g. Matthew 5-7)

## Recommended reading

*The message of the Old Testament: Promises made* – Mark Dever

*The message of the New Testament: Promises Kept* – Mark Dever