



THE **JESUS** APPRENTICESHIP

Session 6:

Why read the Bible and how do we do it?

Teaching notes:

Intro:

Bible is the best-selling book of all time.

People in places where they do not have Bibles rejoice over them

Background:

- 66 books, 40 authors, written over 1500 years
- Full of drama etc
- Bible is backed up by lots of historical documents
- But more than that it is the word of God, God inspired, written by men but inspired by God.
- Essential in communication with God and man.

Why do we need to read and gain an understanding of the World today?

1. Bible is the Word of God and we want to and need to hear Him speak. It's a two-way relationship.

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.' (2 Tim 3:16-17)

2. The Word of God show us:

- i. God's character
 - i. God's actions
 - ii. God's relationship with His people
 - iii. How God uses His people
 - iv. So reveals God, His ways and His desires for us- His love letter to us
3. The Word sustains us

Why more than ever?

- 4. Helps us to find our identity and understand the World
- 5. In a World of people who have no background of the Bible, we need to know God's way, he created us and knows what's best
- 6. In a World of relativism, people do as they see fit, we need the word of God more than ever.
- 7. The is our instruction manual for life

- i. We also need rules, not to ruin our fun but enhance of lives and give us freedom e.g football game.
- ii. It's a firm foundation in an ever-changing World which is so confusing:

¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.' (Ephesians 4:11-14)

What do these verses say about the Bible?

- **Prosper you:**

'Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.' (Joshua 1:8)

- **Helps you become pure:**

*'How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.'* (Psalm 119:9)

- **You WILL get wisdom, understanding and knowledge of God:**

¹ *My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
² turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
³ indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
⁴ and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.* (Proverbs 2:1-5)

'For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.' (Hebrews 4:12)

- **It's weapon especially in prayer and against temptation:**

'Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.' (Ephesians 6:17)

- **Helps us in prayer:**

*'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.'* (John 15:7)

How do we hear God through the Bible? (Top Ten Tips)

1. Be practical! Have a set time, an undistracted place and be awake!
(Drown out the noise and tune into God's voice.)
2. Pray before you read
3. Listen to an audio version (hear the Word of God and obey it)
4. Read it out loud.
5. Read with other people and ask questions
6. Use a Bible reading plan/notes (YouVersion)
7. Read it in a version that is easy for you (N.I.V, Good News)

8. Use resources to help you (The Bible project has great videos to explain books, commentaries, dictionary)
9. Have a pen and paper to write stuff down
10. Ask yourself: is there something for me to say thank you for, sorry for, shows me something about God or about how I should be living? (We use: S.O.A.P- Wash yourself with the Word!)

S - Scripture- read it!

O - Observation- ask yourself questions from what you have read- Who, what, when, why?

A - Application- how can you apply it to your life?

P - Pray about what you have read and ask God to speak through it

Meditation:

Thinking about something deeply, over and over and reflecting on it:

1. Take one verses and repeat it over and over, emphasising different words each times
2. Take a verse a repeat it, write down/draw anything that you get from it and learn it
3. Read and then read again.
4. Take a story and imagine yourself in that story. How do you feel? How did the people in the story feel? What did they experience?

How to Read the Bible

Reading the Bible can be tricky but there are some simple steps that can help you get into the habit and unlock more of God's word.

- Pray and ask God to speak to you as you read the Bible
- Set aside specific time each day to read your Bible
- Try to read in a quiet environment you can focus in at a time you're feeling reasonably awake – reading tricky passages is much more difficult just before bed!
- Look-up difficult words in a dictionary – there are good free dictionaries online.
- Get help with deeper meaning by using Bible reading notes commentaries.
- Write down thoughts or questions you may have.



Reading your Bible in bed might not be the best idea!

Questions to ask while reading the Bible

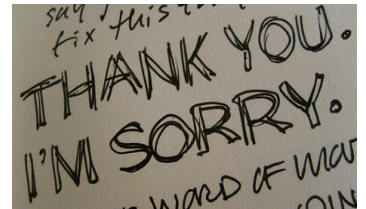
When reading the Bible there are a few basic questions to always ask yourself.

- What does the passage say?
- What does it mean?
- How does it apply to me and my life?

I've finished my reading! Now what?

Here are some questions to ask yourself after reading a passage to double-check your knowledge and help you to apply what you've learnt.

- Did I fully understand what I read? If not, who can I talk to who can help me understand?
- Is there anything to thank God for?
- Is there anything to say sorry for?
- What can I do as a response to what I have read?



Deeper Study

These are some suggested questions to think about when you're trying to look beyond the surface meaning in a passage. Note: Not all the questions will apply to every Bible book.

- Who was the author?
- Who were they writing to?
- Why were they writing it?
- When was the book written? Was it before, after, or during Jesus' time on earth?
- Who is in the book?
- How do the themes and events of the book fit into the wider picture of the Bible?
- What happens in the book?
- When did the events written about take place?
- Are there any other books which include the same event(s)?
- Why did the events in the book happen?
- What does the specific passage you're reading show about God?
- Why did the people the book was written to need to hear what was written?
- How does God tell the people how to live?

