

Session 2 – Getting to grips with a TEXT

Recap

- PROCESS = Text → Application → Presentation
- Good → Bad → Ugly → Promise & Hope → Gospel → Good → Great
- Genre

Working on a text:

1. Pray

2. Read the passage

- Out loud
- Listen to it (audio bible experience)
- A number of times
- Use techniques that make you notice things (e.g. Write it out by hand)

3. Read the context

Sentence → Paragraph → chapter → Bible book → Whole Bible

- Helps to read the whole book of the Bible (if you have time)
 - Can prevent misunderstanding
 - Can add to or help your understanding of your text.

- If it's really long and time is short then at least read the start and end of a book. The link between the two will always give a clue about the big themes of the book.
 - e.g. Exodus 1 → 40:34-38
- Reading the context means we might spot the authors purpose
 - e.g. Luke 1:1-4
 - e.g. John 20:31

4. **Work at the text AND Make notes (writing can aid understanding)**

Read + re-read looking for and noting down things like...

- Repeated words and ideas
e.g. John 6:47-59
- Surprises
e.g. Mark 8:22-26
- Main verbs / commands
e.g. Col 3:1-17 – List the commands / verbs
- The scenes of a story (may point us to the big idea)
Can you sum up each scene in a summary sentence?
- The logic of a passage
Follow the flow of an argument. Look for linking words to help.

If, since, consequently, for this reason, therefore, because, so that
e.g. Heb 4:14-15; 1 John 2:1.

- Does the narrator comment on the story?
 - Matthew 2:13-15
 - Gen 25:29-34
 - John 2:18-22

Write down the BIG IDEA of the passage in your own words.

TO help you get to the **big idea** here are some questions to ask of the text...

1. What does the passage teach us about God
(The Father, His Son Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit)
2. What does the passage teach us about the Christian life?
 - a. Is there are command, a promise or a warning?
 - b. Is there an example to follow or an error to avoid?
3. What is the main lesson?

OR another set...

1. What are the scenes?
2. What are the difficult words / phrases?
3. How does the passage fit into its context?
4. Why is it in the Bible at all?
5. What is its central meaning?
 - a. Ask what it teaches about God
 - b. His relationship to us
 - c. Our attitude to Him
 - d. Our attitude to each other
6. How does this relate to the Lord Jesus and his saving work on the cross?
7. What act(s) of obedience follow from this passage?
8. What is God saying to this group of kids through this text? How does he want us to respond?

Books

- Dictionary can be helpful (!! But beware Bible words have bible meanings !!)
- A Bible dictionary
- Commentaries – Don't be too quick to use them. A one-volume commentary can be helpful to have around.
- Your Bible study guide / TNT / Click notes etc...

IMPORTANT!

Get the big idea – write down a theme sentence.

If we're not clear on what this text is about then the kids won't be either.