

How God speaks with us

Living in relationship with God- session 4

4 keys to loving the Bible

"My soul is consumed with longing for your commands at all times."

"Oh how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."

"I obey your statutes for I love them greatly!"

Psalm 119:20, 97, 167

1. Know the author (2 Timothy 3:16-17, p. 1197)

a. **God is the author**

b. **Different human writers are the authors**

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" 2 Peter 1:20-21

BIG APPLICATION: Approach the Bible with **humility, and **hard work****

2. Know the Subject (John 5:39-40, p. 1069)

a. **The Old Testament looks forward to Jesus**

- Prophecies about Jesus - e.g. Isaiah 53
- Types of Jesus - e.g. Joshua, King David
- Shadows of Jesus - e.g. the sacrifices, the temple
- The need for Jesus - e.g. there is no lasting solution to the problem of sin

b. The New Testament centres on Jesus

BIG APPLICATION: Approach the Bible in a **Jesus-centred** way (or *Christologically*)

Two questions to ask of the OT in particular:

1. 'What difference does Jesus' arrival make to this?
2. 'How does this point me to Jesus?

3. Know the purpose (Ephesians 6:17 p. 1177)

"Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.."

Eph. 6:17

BIG APPLICATION: Approach the Bible **devotionally**

Jesus answered, 'It is written 'man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4

4. Know the battle

a. Sinful hearts (Hebrews 3:7-13)

"Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts"

b. Forgetful minds (Deuteronomy 4:7-9, 8:1-18; Hos. 13:6)

"Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands that I am giving you this day" Deut 8:11

c. A cunning enemy (Gen. 3:1-6; Mark 4:15)

"As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them"

d. Partial sight (1 Cor 13:12)

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully"

BIG APPLICATION: Approach the Bible with perseverance

Small Groups – Reading the Bible day by day

Next Time

Next week we'll be thinking about '**how we speak to God**'

Main passages: Hebrews 10:19-25, Matthew 7:7-12

Bible-studies: Matthew 6:5-15

Some questions to get you going-

- How does Jesus say we *shouldn't* pray?
- How does Jesus say we *should* pray?

Taking it further

Memory Verse

Your Words are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

Psalm 19:10

Further Bible-Study

Use Explore Notes, or another set of Bible reading notes, and try to have 10 minutes reading the Bible and praying each day! If you want to go further still, then take some time to read through **Psalm 119**. It's the longest psalm in the Bible, and is all about how wonderful God's Word is. As you read, think about the following questions:

- What attitude does the Psalmist have to God's Word
- What are some of the benefits of reading God's Word?
- What is God's part, and our part when it comes to understanding God's Word?

For the book-worms

<i>Can I trust the Bible?</i>	Barry Cooper	A great short book about the Bible
<i>Online articles</i>	Various	Detailed on 'reading the Bible in an electronic age' leaflet
<i>Digging Deeper</i>	Beynon and Sach	A book with a whole series of 'tools' to help us dig deeper into the Bible ourselves.

