

## Teaching & encouraging others from the Scriptures

How can we use the Scriptures to encourage and disciple others to maturity in Christ? It is NOT by adding another program! Discover how to bring the word of God into all of life – in your meetings with other believers, moments of doing life together and milestones creating traditions and events.

Imagine if there was a way that people could grow in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ - a way that returned gospel growth to the everyday fabric of personal relationship, rather than relying on church-run programs. That guided people in a deeper, more meaningful way than an event, program or class could possibly do - guided on an individual basis by someone who cared for them personally.

What is this way? What is this activity that is so simple and so universal that it meets the discipleship needs of very different people at very different stages of discipleship, even non-Christians? Welcome to the practice of teaching and encouraging others from the Scriptures!

**Note - this workshop is part 2!** Email [mike@tcbc.org.au](mailto:mike@tcbc.org.au) to access the workshop handout and video recording of *READING THE SCRIPTURES* to understand why the practice of reading Scripture is important for every believer, ideas how to do it and what it can do in your life

### **1. TEACHING & ENCOURAGING OTHERS FROM THE SCRIPTURES – *Being renewed* :**

There are at least 4 tangible benefits to teaching and encouraging others from the Scriptures<sup>1</sup>

- 1. Salvation.** The book of James tells us that the word of God “is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). In fact, apart from God’s word to us about Jesus, it is impossible for a person to know how to be forgiven of sin and accepted by him. The apostle Peter makes the same point in 1 Peter 1:23 “you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (see also Romans 10:10-14). From these verses it is clear that reading the Bible is infinitely important, not just for Christians but also for non-Christians
- 2. Sanctification (Becoming like Jesus).** Christians are also called to encourage ONE ANOTHER and to build ONE ANOTHER UP (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13 and Ephesians 4:29). They are called to instruct one another, to speak the truth to one another, to teach and admonish one another with the wisdom of Christ’s word, and to stir up one another to love and good works (Romans 15:4; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 3:16 and Hebrews 10:24). In his first letter, Peter says the Word that saved us is the same Word that strengthens us in our faith. He writes: ‘long for pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation’ (1 Peter 2:2). In another place, the apostle Paul describes the usefulness and versatility of the Bible, declaring “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). Christians are called to live together as Christians, loving those around them and spreading God’s truth to them. Reading the Bible together provides an excellent way for Christians to strengthen one another on the road to sanctification – to become more like Jesus.
- 3. Training.** Reading with others can be used to identify and train people for greater ministry responsibility in the world. Jesus focused his ministry on teaching twelve disciples, and of those twelve he focused especially on three: Peter, John and James. The message about Jesus spreads today in the same way it spread back then. The investment in just a few may not seem like the most efficient use of time, but it is through just a few people that Christ’s gospel has gone out to the ends of the earth, gathering people from every nation into his kingdom.
- 4. Relationship.** The personal nature of reading the Bible is why every Christian should consider taking up this practice. In this day, we are all hungry for relationships of substance. The language of friendship has become

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<sup>1</sup> This is taken from a book that we highly recommend - **ONE-TO-ONE BIBLE READING: A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN** by David Helm. He answers simply and clearly what exactly is reading the Bible one-to-one? Why should we do it? Who is it for?



a verb. We 'friend' mere acquaintances with the click of a button. Teaching and encouraging others from the Scriptures offers the appeal of developing true friendships, relationships of greater familiarity and substance.

So why teach and encourage others from the Scriptures? We do so because of our convictions about the power of God's word. When people are exposed to it, they find salvation in Christ, they are sanctified in faith, they are trained for effective ministry in the world and they find community in a web of relationships that are unlike any other the world has to offer.

## 2. Digging Deeper into Scripture (refer to Part 1 Reading Scriptures workshop)

**Context** ... where does this fit in the big story of the Bible?

**Observation** ... what does the passage actually say?

**Meaning** ... what does the passage mean?

**Application** ... How do I respond?

**P.S Prayer & Share**

e.g. Deuteronomy 6:1-12 'Talk about it!'

## 3. IDEAS TO PRACTICE – *Being Intentional*:

**MEETINGS** - *Structured, intentional, planned times when you meet with another Christian or Christians to share God's word.* Examples - Church on Sunday, Life group, family devotions (maybe all together, with your son or daughter before they go to sleep, with your spouse), meeting with a friend to share and pray together, read the bible one to one with someone, mentoring some one younger in the faith, scripture, youth group, Sunday school. To practice:

- Try sharing with a friend your favourite passage or something that you have read yourself, or a sermon you have heard recently, maybe a podcast you have listened to but something from God's word that has encouraged you, or challenged you in your walk with Jesus. After you do that, reflect on if/how it was encouraging? It's always good to hear how God is active in our lives. How he is at work in us and through us? This is how we grow. This is how we help others to grow. But you if you are not in the word you won't have anything to share – apprenticeship starts with being with Jesus so that we can do the works of Jesus
- Do I come prepared thinking about what God has taught me? Ready to encourage someone with how God has been speaking into my life?
- Do you need to think about new possibilities here. Are you open to initiating something new? Perhaps it is with a work colleague at lunch time? Perhaps it is sharing with your spouse or girlfriend or boyfriend more regularly? Being more intentional.

**MOMENTS** - *those spontaneous, unplanned, little opportunities that God gives during the day for you to share something with someone from God's word.* God gives many opportunities to share something that he has been showing you from his word. But we sometimes miss these opportunities because we were not tuned in to what God was doing, not walking in step with his Spirit. It is so easy to drift through our day, or become so busy with everything that needs to happen that we can miss those God-given moments of conversation. Practising the Presence of God (being with Jesus). To practice:

- Do you have anything built into your daily routine that reminds you that God is with you? Pick up that warm coffee mug and let it remind you of the depth and warmth of God's love for you, the 5 min walk to the bus stop each morning is a chance to pray and commit your day to God.



- Think of an experience where God brought someone along just at the right time, to share with you just what you needed to hear. A word of encouragement, or challenge or even correction. Or perhaps God used you to encourage another Christian. You didn't plan but God did and he gave you an opportunity, a conversation. While they are often spontaneous, you can actually plan by thinking about passages that speak into different contexts to pastorally care for a friend....consider God's promises such as:

He won't leave you Hebrews 13:5-6 ... nothing can separate you from his love Romans 8:28-39

Forgiveness 1 John 1:9-10, Psalm 103:10-12

God's character ... faithfulness , Hebrews 10 10:23, Ps 91:4

**MILESTONES** – *Markers of life that happen or we create (like traditions).* Examples an anniversary (joyful or sad), birthdays, starting school, starting a new school year, baptism, leaving home, graduation, retirement. These are a really good opportunity to share the word of God. Write a card or give a speech to share something about God's word. An idea to practice - End of year is a milestone – many make New Year resolution, why not try doing as a family to reflect on God's word and our life over the year – share:

- *Woohoo* (reflecting on a highlight from the year – what is something you are thankful for that God has done through the year),
- *Boohoo* (something you have found hard, challenging through the year) and
- *Guru* (something God has taught you through the year).

#### 4. TAKE STEPS TO GROW IN COMMUNITY:

A. To grow in this practice, what is **one idea you want to experiment with this coming week / month?** How will you do that?

B. **Is there someone that you could connect with for mutual encouragement, learning and accountability to deepen in this practice?**<sup>2</sup> It might be your spouse, sibling, close friend, someone in your life group or someone else at this workshop.

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<sup>2</sup> This a practical way we can fulfill our vision together at TCBC "*Transforming lives through Christ-centred community*"

*"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching"* (Hebrews 10:24-25).