

TE6.01 Read the Bible One-to-One

(9 hours)

Apprentice:	Trainer:	Completed: / /
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Reading the Bible with individuals is an important ministry to develop. During MTS, Apprentices need to set up regular Bible reading appointments with a range of people.

There are benefits for the Apprentice:

1. Personal ministry begins with the Bible, rather than with solving problems.
2. Learning to talk with individuals naturally, with the Bible open, discussing Christian doctrine and living.
3. It is easy to get started, just finding one person at a time. The logistics are easier than forming groups
4. Getting immediate feedback about what the person understands and their issues in obedience.
5. Prayer can be more personal and specific.
6. Growing in understanding of people will improve our group and public ministries.
7. It is not necessary to know everything. You can be honest about what you don't understand yet and study together.

There are benefits for the individual:

1. Individuals can raise their own specific questions about the Bible and the Christian faith
2. Personal problems can be dealt with in the context of Bible reading.
3. Learning how to read and apply the Bible with a personal 'tutor.'

There are some dangers in this personal ministry:

1. Some people never get established in church life if they rely only on this personal ministry.
2. Related to this is the problem of an unhealthy dependency that can develop, so that the individual will only learn and take advice from their Bible reading partner. This can develop when the individual is insecure or if we are overbearing and authoritarian in our manner.

Exercise

To meet with individuals for the purpose of reading the Bible together, prayer and encouragement in godliness.

Aims

1. To establish Bible reading ministries with a range of people.
2. To learn the skills of one-to-one Bible reading.

Apprentices

1. Work toward having 5 to 10 different people in regular Bible reading appointments.
2. Choose people at different stages of their Christian life: unbelievers, new Christians, struggling Christians and those you are training in some ministry. The requirement is simple - are they spiritually hungry? Read with anyone who is keen to learn more of the Scriptures and work out the implications for life.
3. Choose times that are efficient, for example, attaching appointments to other activities such

as before or after church, work or sport.

4. There are many published studies that are suitable for one-to-one bible reading. For example, *Interactive Bible Studies* from Matthias Media, available as part of a GoThereFor subscription.
5. Learn to read the Bible with an individual, just using the text of Scripture without a published guide. This can be the best approach in teaching someone how to read and apply the scriptures. The Ministry Tool, One-to-One Bible Reading (find below) provides a method to get started.

Trainers

Engage in Bible reading with the Apprentice. This serves to both demonstrate the method and evaluate the Apprentice's skill in one-to-one Bible reading.

Resources

Interactive Bible Studies, Matthias Media.

One-to-one Bible Reading Ministry Worksheet

(TE6.01)

Aims

1. To understand what God is saying through His Word.
2. To teach the process of how to read the Bible.
3. To pray and apply the Word of God to life.

Preliminary Steps

1. Organise a regular meeting time.
1. Choose a book of the Bible to read.
2. You might want to read the passage beforehand, but don't over prepare. It works better if you are both wrestling with the text together.

Discussion

1. Main Points

Work out the most important ideas in the passage. Look for:

- How this passage fits into the immediate context
- How the passage is quoted or alluded to in other parts of the Bible
- Who is addressed
- What do we know about the author
- Who are the main characters
- When and where does this take place
- Repeated words, phrases and ideas

Use basic tools, as appropriate, to answer questions and explore details:

- Cross reference notes in your Bible
- Bible concordance
- Bible Atlas
- Commentaries

2. Flow

Work out how the main points fit together, the logic of the passage. Look for:

- Linking words and phrases (e.g. and, but, although, how much more)
- Explanatory words (e.g. because, for, so that, therefore, since, in order that, if...then)
- Words which indicate time (e.g. now, after, then, when)

3. The Main Point

Work out the most important idea or conclusion of the passage. Look for:

- The topic sentence
- Direct commands
- How the main point relates to who Jesus is and the meaning of His death and resurrection

4. Application of the Main Point

Work out how the main point changes our understanding of God and the way we live. Look for:

- Implications for our doctrine, attitudes, relationships, speech, ministries, dealing with sin
- What we should pray about

5. Prayer

Pray together about the applications above.