

Here is some Pre-Reading to do before Session Six

Session 6 - Genre: Reading Each Part of the Bible Properly

Main Thought

The whole Bible is God's Word, but not every part of the Bible is written in the same style.

Genre simply means the kind of writing we are reading. Scripture includes history, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, Gospel narrative, letters, and apocalyptic writing. Each part is true and profitable, but each should be read carefully according to the way God has given it.

We read a psalm differently from a proverb. We read a Gospel account differently from a New Testament letter. Genre helps us ask better questions so that we do not force one part of Scripture to work like another.

A Word of Encouragement

The word genre may sound technical, but the idea is simple: What kind of writing am I reading?

You already do this in ordinary life. You read a letter differently from a recipe, a poem differently from a news report, and a story differently from a list of instructions. Bible study is similar. We are learning to notice how the passage has been written so we can listen more faithfully.

You do not need to master every kind of writing at once. This session is simply about learning to pause and ask, "What kind of passage is this, and how should that shape the way I read it?"

A Few Simple Genre Questions

When you read a passage, ask:

- What kind of writing am I reading?
- Is it telling a story, giving wisdom, singing or praying, teaching doctrine, giving prophecy, or revealing future hope?
- Does it use imagery, comparison, commands, story, or direct teaching?
- How does this part fit with God's redemptive plan in Christ?

Please Read These Passages Before Session Six

1. **Psalm 23**

- As you read, simply notice:

- What pictures or images are used.
- What this psalm teaches about the Lord.
- How poetry helps us feel and understand truth.

2. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

- As you read, simply notice:

- What commands are given.
- What promise or wisdom is connected to those commands.
- How a proverb differs from a mechanical formula.

3. **Luke 15:11-32**

- As you read, simply notice:

- What story Jesus tells.
- Which characters appear and how they respond.
- What the parable reveals about sin, repentance, and the Father's heart.

4. **Romans 5:1-11**

- As you read, simply notice:

- What truths are stated clearly about believers.
- What Christ has done for us.
- How a letter teaches through explanation and reasoning.

5. **Revelation 21:1-5**

- As you read, simply notice:

- What images or pictures are used.
- What God promises to make new.
- How this passage gives hope through symbolic and future-focused language.

One Simple Thing to Bring next time we catch up.

Before Session Six, choose one of the passages above and write one sentence in response to this:

This passage is written as _____, and that helps me notice...

It does not need to be deep or impressive. Just notice how the kind of writing helps you read the passage more carefully.

Closing Thought

Genre is not about making the Bible complicated. It is about listening to each part of Scripture in the way God has given it.

The goal is simple: notice what kind of passage you are reading, ask better questions, and let the Word of God speak faithfully in its proper form. As we do this, we keep learning to see Christ more clearly and respond to God with trust and obedience.