

# Handling the Word

## *Lesson 8 - Putting It All Together* *Conversation Notes*

### **Today we are asking one simple question**

How can I keep studying the Bible faithfully?

Over these sessions we have practiced prayer, humility, observation, context, interpretation, genre, and application. Today we bring those pieces together into one simple path for opening Scripture and listening to God through His Word.

**Psalm 119:18; 2 Timothy 2:15; Nehemiah 8:8; Luke 24:44-47; James 1:22-25; Psalm 1:1-3**

### **A few things we are looking for today**

- We review the main steps we have learnt together.
- We practice using a simple Bible study pattern.
- We remember that Bible study is not about performance, but faithful listening.
- We keep Christ and God's redemptive plan at the centre.
- We leave with one simple habit to keep practicing.

### **Let's check in honestly**

**How did you go with the pre-reading for this session?**

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**Was there a verse or thought that encouraged you, challenged you, or stood out to you?**

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**One simple Bible study habit I want to keep practicing is...**

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### **A kind reminder before we read**

You are not expected to master every part of Bible study overnight. Growth in the Word is usually steady, like a tree planted by water.

The aim is not to make Bible study complicated. The aim is to keep drawing near to God with a teachable heart.

### **A simple Bible study pattern**

When you open a passage, you can walk through a simple path. You do not need to rush. These steps are not a burden. They help you listen carefully.

- Pray - ask God to open your eyes and help you receive His Word.
- Read - read the passage slowly, more than once if possible.
- Observe - ask, "What does the passage actually say?"
- Consider context - ask, "What surrounds this verse or passage?"
- Notice genre - ask, "What kind of writing am I reading?"
- Interpret - ask, "What does this passage mean in its setting?"
- Apply - ask, "How should I respond with faith and obedience?"
- Pray again - ask the Lord to help you believe, obey, and keep growing.

### **Read and talk together**

#### **Psalm 119:18**

This is a simple prayer to begin with whenever we open Scripture.

**What does this verse teach us to ask God for?**

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**How could this prayer help you begin Bible reading with humility?**

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#### **2 Timothy 2:15**

This verse reminds us that we should handle the Word of truth carefully.

**What does careful handling of Scripture involve?**

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**Why is faithfulness more important than trying to sound impressive?**

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### **Nehemiah 8:8**

This verse gives a helpful picture of careful Bible teaching and understanding.

**What happened with the Word of God in this verse?**

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**Why does understanding matter when we read Scripture?**

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### **Luke 24:44-47**

Jesus teaches that Scripture points to Him and to God's redemptive purpose.

**What parts of Scripture does Jesus mention?**

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**Why should Christ remain central when we study the Bible?**

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### **James 1:22-25**

James reminds us that the Word is not only to be heard. It is to be continued in and obeyed.

**What warning does James give about hearing without doing?**

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**What could it look like to continue in the Word after these sessions finish?**

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### **Main practice passage**

#### **Psalm 1:1-3**

Use the simple pattern below to practice bringing the pieces together.

**Observe - what does the passage say about the blessed man?**

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**Context and genre - what kind of writing is this, and what picture does it use?**

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**Interpret and apply - what does this passage call me to value or practice?**

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## A simple tool to keep using

When you read a passage, you can ask:

- What should I pray before I read?
- What does the passage actually say?
- What surrounds this passage?
- What kind of writing am I reading?
- What does this passage mean in its setting?
- How does this passage point me to God, to Christ, or to God's redemptive purpose?
- What should I believe, confess, trust, obey, pray, or give thanks for?

## Pulling it together

Finish this sentence in your own words: Faithful Bible study helps me...

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What part of the pathway has helped you the most?

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What is one small Bible study habit you want to continue?

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## Today's simple takeaway

Faithful Bible study is a simple, steady way of listening to God through His Word.

Come prayerfully, read carefully, understand faithfully, see Christ more clearly, and respond with trust and obedience.

## This week - keep it simple

Choose one short passage this week and use the simple pattern: pray, read, observe, consider context, notice genre, interpret, apply, and pray again.

The passage I will read this week is...

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One thing I will keep practicing is...

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## Prayer to finish

Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help me to keep drawing near to You. Open my eyes, teach me to listen carefully, help me understand faithfully, show me Christ more clearly, and lead me to respond with trust and obedience. Amen.