

1-to-1 Bible Reading & Discipleship

Key ideas:

- People not programmes
- Sitting under the Bible together

Attitude and aim: 2 Corinthians 1:24

How: 2 Corinthians 3:15-18

Paul & Timothy – 2 Tim. 3:10-17

- life on life - modelling the Cross-shaped life, convictions and affections
- pointing to the Bible - as the simple, sacred, saving and sufficient Word – not dependency

God has given us BOOKS

Often discipleship is based on complex materials, programmes and guides using loads of isolated verses from all over. What are the advantages of reading through books together?

- The Word sets the agenda – you look at things you would never think to cover in an order you'd never design
- The Word is the authority – we both sit under
- Easy for mentee to remember and to check later
- Gives confidence in the Word
- Little preparation needed
- Get proper context – less likely to misinterpret/twist
- You don't assume the gospel, don't miss Jesus
- Models individual Bible reading
- Models a simple, repeatable discipleship method

Books all have particular themes, purpose, target. Eg:

- Job – challenging prosperity gospel, moralism, dualism, going through suffering
- Jonah – challenging lack of love for the lost
- Matthew – discipleship – 5 blocks of teaching
- Acts – to give certainty about the gospel events and apostolic witness
- Romans – dealing with boasting and division by reminding of the deep gospel
- 1 Corinthians – dealing with a church in a moral and theological mess, esp. pride
- Ephesians – for those who have come out of the 'protection' of spiritism
- 2 Timothy – how to guard and entrust the gospel
- Hebrews – addressing attraction of visible/tangible religion and fixing our eyes back on Jesus
- 1 & 2 Peter – how to grow in grace
- Revelation – challenging those in danger of being seduced by the world and losing first love

Philippians – a great discipleship resource

- Partnership in gospel mission from day one
- Assurance
- To live is Christ to die is gain
- The gift of suffering

- Unity in Christ
- The humble God
- Grumbling
- Gospel not assumed – don't give your life, bin your righteousness
- Eternal, resurrection perspective
- Anxiety
- Contentment

Read through the Gospels with a few key questions:

Matthew

- What do you learn about the King?
- What do you learn about his Kingdom?

Mark (cf. Mk. 8:27-38)

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did he come?
- What does it mean to follow him?

Luke (cf. Lk. 19:10)

- Who is Jesus?
- What are we naturally like?
- How are we saved?
- What fruit comes from being saved?

John (cf. Jn. 20:30-31)

- Who is Jesus?
- How do we have life in him?

- Discipling to disciple others – simple model, easily replicate, viral
- How many?
- How chosen? Issues of envy/elitism
- 1-to-1 Bible reading not only for discipleship but also for evangelism or training/equipping

Other resources:

- Colin Marshall, *Passing on the Baton*
- Sophie Peace, *One-to-One*
- David Helm, *One-to-One* ([sample of first chapter](#))
- Guan Un, 'Diary of a ministry apprentice', *The Briefing* – [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), [part 5](#), [part 6](#)