

Scripture: Can You Handle It?

with Brett Selby

Session One: Understanding the Nuts and Bolts

Instructions to Leader: Use this guide for group discussion after watching the session video. After each question, allow time for answers. At times it may be useful for you to share your own story to initiate meaningful discussion.

Core Truth: An expositor approved by God begins with the fundamental tools and principles of interpreting Scripture.

Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 2:14-19

Session Video Outline:

1. Right Attitude
 - a. Posture: Approaching the text with humility and recognizing its authority by not adding to or subtracting from the Word of God
 2. Right Aptitudes
 - a. The skillful expositor must be able to handle Scripture in light of these aspects: Authorship, Literary type, Context, Structure, Biblical storyline, and Christ-centered focus
 3. Right Devotion
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:13-15
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Guiding Questions:

1. How does a person's posture (viewpoint and attitude) toward the Word of God impact the way they study it and interpret it?

2. What is the best way to improve an expositional skill (aptitude)?

3. What is the greatest challenge in becoming an expositor of God's Word, a workman with a God-centered confidence in his text work?

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Session Two: Putting the Pieces Together

Instructions to Leader: Use this guide for group discussion after watching the session video. After each question, allow time for answers. At times it may be useful for you to share your own story to initiate meaningful discussion.

Core Truth: An approved expositor discerns and follows a process for using all the fundamental tools of biblical exposition.

Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 2:15

Session Video Outline:

1. To move from "text" to "today," we must first determine "then/them"
 2. Moving to "then/them" requires the skillful and prayerful practice of the fundamental tools
 3. Moving to "today" after "then/them" also requires a journey through the Cross
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Guiding Questions:

1. Why is application of biblical truth such a dangerous endeavor?
2. What are the results of teaching the text in such a way that is not Christ-centered and gospel-oriented?
3. Why would an expositor be tempted to stop with "then/them" and not apply the text to "today"?

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Session Three: Speaking the Word of God To Others

Instructions to Leader: Use this guide for group discussion after watching the session video. After each question, allow time for answers. At times it may be useful for you to share your own story to initiate meaningful discussion.

Core Truth: An approved expositor delivers and applies the truth of the text in a way that is consistent with its nature, authority, and meaning.

Focal Passage: Colossians 4:2-4

Session Video Outline:

1. Rhetoric: "to argue without anger"
 2. Aristotle's definition: "finding in any circumstance the available means of persuasion"
 3. Teaching/preaching Scripture must always include the making of an argument
 - a. Acts 17:2-5; 24:24-26; 26:26-29
 4. The classical formula: *logos, ethos, pathos*
 - a. Delivery of content should be related to the content being delivered
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Guiding Questions:

1. How does the Trivium pattern of instruction help us understand the lack of civility in public discourse today? In other words, why does it seem that people only know how to shout at each other and not reason with one another?

2. Why is it important that the tone of our teaching in delivery reflect the tone of the passage we are teaching?

3. How can we balance our attempt to effective and clear in delivery with the necessity of the Holy Spirit's ministry of penetrating the human heart and mind?

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Session Three: The Action Plan

Instructions to Leader: Use this final session to guide men to develop their action plan. These are steps they must take to apply the truths they discovered in the first three sessions.

1. Review the past 3 sessions by asking the following discussion questions. Allow for men to answer.
 - a. How have you begun to practice the nuts and bolts of handling Scripture? (2 Timothy 2:14-19) – Session One
 - b. What have you done to prayerfully incorporate all of the nuts and bolts of exposition in a process of interpretation? (2 Timothy 2:15) – Session Two
 - c. In what ways have you adopted a style of delivering the truth that is consistent with the text itself? (Colossians 4:2-4) – Session Three
2. Continue discussion with the following questions.
 - a. What three things do you need to focus on now?
 - b. What are your next steps: today, tomorrow & beyond?
3. End in prayer asking them men for ways you can pray and encourage them. Encourage them men to pray and encourage each other as they continue on their journey to sharing God's Word well.