

Student Focus 2020

Hearing God Speak Today



- 09:30 Session 1**
What is God's Word?
- 10:25 Break**
- 10:35 Session 2**
The Spirit and God's Word
Words about God's Word
- 11:05 Break**
- 11:15 Session 3**
Guidance and God's Word
- 12:00 Break**
- 12:10 Session 4 (12:30 finish)**
Listening to God's Word

If we're running ahead of them, we'll start the next session early, after a 10min break.

How does God reveal who He is? (Psalm 19)

	verses 1-6	verses 7-14	The contrast
Who reveals (name)?			
How does He reveal?			
To who?			
For what purpose?			
What is man's response to be to this revelation?			

General Revelation

"As a consequence [of creation] men cannot open their eyes without being compelled to see [God]... upon his individual works he has engraved unmistakable marks of His glory, so clear and so prominent that even the unlettered [illiterate] and stupid folk cannot plead the excuse of ignorance." Calvin

Romans 1:18-21

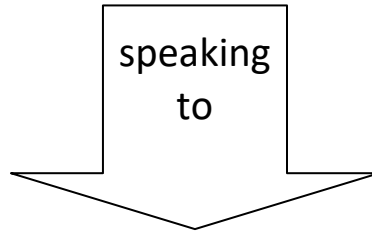
"¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Specific Revelation

"This, therefore, is a special gift, where God... opens his most hallowed lips... [He] shows Himself as the God upon whom we are to look.... so that from these common proofs [of Creation] He also put forth His Word, which is a more direct and more certain mark whereby He is to be recognised." Calvin

The right approach to Scripture then

GOD AS CREATOROR



US AS CREATURES



How do you like your tea?



Ultimately what we have in Scripture then, is a love letter from God... to His humanity... as He reveals himself... as Yhwh... a revealing, rescuing God

How we respond to this letter from God... will say a lot about what we think of God Himself

Confidence in God's Word

2 Samuel 7:4-5

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?'

Matthew 19:4-5 and Genesis 2:23-25

Matthew 19: who are we told says 'therefore a man shall leave...?'

Who actually 'says' this in Genesis 2?

Hebrews 1:8 and Psalm 45:6

Who says of the Son 'your throne...?' In Hebrews 1? (hint, Hebrews 1:1, 1:5 help)

Who says 'your throne O God...' in Psalm 45? (the superscription at top of the psalm helps)

Hebrews 2:11b-12 and Psalm 22:22

Who says 'I will tell of your name...' in Hebrews 2? (hint: it's the same person that's mentioned in 2:9 and 2:14)

Who is speaking in Psalm 22? (the superscription at top of the psalm helps)

Hebrews 3:7 and Psalm 95:7

Who says 'today if you hear his voice...' in Hebrews 3?

Who says 'today if you hear his voice...' in Psalm 95?

Matthew 19:4-5

⁴ Jesus answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

Genesis 2:23-25

²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called Woman,

because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Hebrews 1:8

⁸ But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
the sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of your kingdom.

Hebrews 1:1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our father through the prophets...

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

Psalms 45:0, 6

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah; a love song.

⁶ Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever.

The sceptre of your kingdom is a sceptre of uprightness;

Hebrews 2:11b-12

That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

"I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus...

Hebrews 2:14

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might...

Psalms 22:0, 22

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

Hebrews 3:7

⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,
"Today, if you hear his voice,

Psalm 95:7

⁷For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice,

In 2s/3s, choose one or two to answer...

John 14:26 and John 16:12-13 – what does Jesus promise the apostles? What does that mean for their written words in the New Testament?

2 Peter 3:15-16 – what does this tell you about how Paul's words were regarded?

1 Timothy 5:18 – what does Scripture say about labourer? And yet the only reference to this is recorded in Luke 10:7. So what does that tell you about Luke's gospel? Why is that striking?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – how does this summarise what we've seen so far?

John 14:26

²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 16:12-13

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

2 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

1 Timothy 5:18

¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain", and, "The labourer deserves his wages."

Luke 10:1-2, 7

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them... ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God^[a] may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Session 2 - The Holy Spirit's Work and God's Word

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

⁹ *But, as it is written,*

*"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,*

what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*

In 2s/3s:
What is going on when Christians meet together?

Ephesians 5:18-21

Colossians 3:16-17

Therefore God's word is SUFFICIENT...

In 2s/3s: How is the bible Sufficient?

2 Peter 1:3-4

2 Timothy 3:16-17

... and INERRENT (without error or fault)

Bungee-jump doctrines!



... and CLEAR (Clarity/Perspicuity of Scripture)



A desert island doctrine!

"the clarity of scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it" (Wayne Grudem)

In 2s/3s, look up these verses. What is God's word like? Who is expected to understand it?

Deuteronomy 29:29

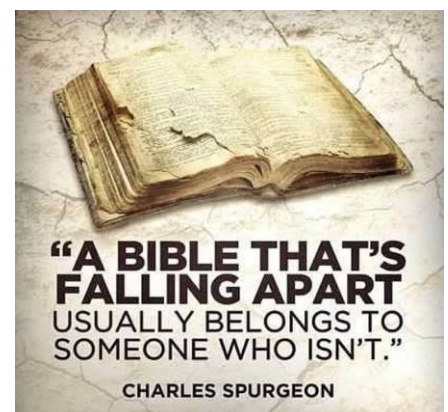
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Psalms 19:7, 119:130

1 Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:2, Phil 1:1

Therefore we can be totally confident...

... so let's prayerfully... diligently... expectantly... and humbly... study, pour over and lap up... God's word... as we rest our full weight against it.



Session 3: Guidance

Ever wish God would be clearer...?

In 2s/3s look at Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What is the Christian's destination... what is God's plan for your life?

How does that mean God is doing in your life, day-by-day?

Not forgetting, Romans 8:35 – tribulation, distress, persecution

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Do you share God's concern for your life?

Philippians 1:8-11

⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Do you want to live a life that is pleasing to God?

Not a nitty-gritty list of dos and don'ts... but God the Father, works through his word by His Spirit, to make us more like his Son Jesus... the fruit of which is decisions that will most glorify, honour and please Him.

Let's be controversial : God isn't that interested in what job we do, or where we live. He's most concerned about you becoming more like Jesus

Job advice: Ephesians 4:28

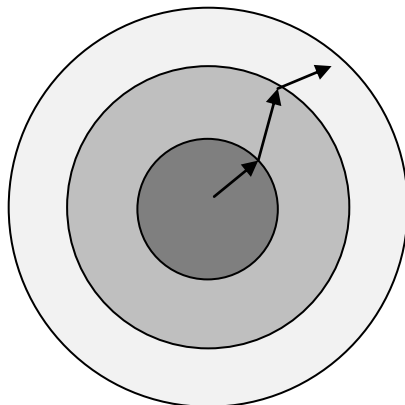
²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Relationship advice

All of life advice: Colossians 3:17

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

Three areas to work through when making a decision



1) is it a right/wrong decision?

2) What are the wise/foolish considerations?

If neither option is wrong... is one more wise than the other? Does one have greater gospel benefit than the other?

3) Who cares!

LOADS fits into this category

Putting it into practice

Is it a right/wrong or wise/foolish decision?

If a Wise/Foolish decision, what factors are there to consider?

Beyond that, is it a "who cares" decision?

Should I murder my neighbour?

Should a Christian ever smoke?

Where should I live?

	Is it a Right/Wrong Decision? If not, move to the next two columns	If not a Right/Wrong decision... what are some Wise/Foolish considerations?	What would be some "Who Cares" aspects of this decision?
Should I sleep with someone I'm not married to?			
Should I watch 18 certificate films?			
Should I go out with someone who isn't a Christian?			
How should I dress?			
What job should I go for?			
Should I agree to do a gig on a Sunday evening?			
Should I be on the CU committee?			
Should I go on a pub crawl?			

Session 4: Listening

“Quiet Times”

In 2s/3s... have a look at Psalm 1 together:

What are the contrasts in verses 1 and 2? [*note ‘blessed’ literally translates here as ‘truly happy’*]

What images are used in the rest of the Psalm? How do they highlight the importance of meditating on God’s word ‘day and night’?

One your own... think about these questions

What do I find hard when it comes to reading my bible for myself? Why is that? What practical things, or encouraging reminders, will make it easier for me?

If you don’t already have a plan... what could be a plan for the next few days to get yourself into reading the bible day-to-day?

Sermons

Humbly

Expectantly

Actively

Regularly

Geographically (**G**athered together)

Obediently

Daily

In 2s/3s:

In what ways can we **help one another** listen to sermons more thoughtfully?

How might that change the way we see time together after church on a Sunday or throughout the week?