

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 2 HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

“...Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

2 Peter 3:15,16

1. Paul wrote about salvation in a number of letters using God's wisdom
2. Not all of his writings are easy to understand—and can be misinterpreted
3. The result of misinterpretation will be 'self-destruction'.
4. What parts of the Bible do you find hard to understand? Can we help you?

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Acts 17:11

1. Paul spoke to the people of Berea, they checked up what he

said in the Bible. The Bible they used was the Old Testament.

2. The writer of the book of Acts was impressed with what they were doing
3. How would you check out what you hear the preacher says?

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Corinthians 2:14

1. Not everyone will understand what the Spirit teaches.
2. Does this explain why some people find it hard to understand the Bible?
3. How could you help people become spiritually discerning?

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 14:26

1. The Holy Spirit will teach us directly
2. The Holy Spirit will remind us of what Jesus, as a teacher, said to His people
3. We need to be taught as Christians
4. We need to remember what we have been taught
5. How could you be taught and how could you help yourself remember what you have been taught?
6. Would it help to memorise Bible verses?

“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me..”

John 5:39

1. Jesus states that the Scriptures will produce eternal life. He is speaking of the Old Testament
2. The aim is to find Jesus in the Scriptures

“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”--which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Matthew 27:46

1. This passage can be easily misunderstood
2. In the next Bible text we can see that Jesus is quoting from what we know as the Old Testament. What is He telling us?

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?”

Psalms 22:1

1. Do you think it is significant that Jesus quotes the opening words of a Psalm?
2. If you only read that verse would you think Jesus feels unhappy with God?