



TRAINING SESSION

Handling the Bible Well in Children's and Youth Ministry

Session 1



This session equips us with the tools to handle the Bible well—ensuring our teaching is:

- **Faithful**
- **Christ-centred**
- **Spirit-dependent**
- **Grounded in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture**

By grasping the overarching narrative of Scripture, the importance of context, and the principles of exegesis, we will grow in confidence as we lead children and young people to know and love God's Word.

Part 1

The Theological Foundation for Bible Teaching

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.”

THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST

Luke 24:27 – “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.”

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:26 – “The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.”

THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 1:3 – “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us.”

→ **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do we need to hold firmly to the authority of Scripture when teaching children and young people?
- How can we ensure that we are always pointing to Christ in our Bible teaching?
- What role does prayer play in our preparation and teaching?

Part 2

Context – Understanding the Big Picture

THE OVERARCHING NARRATIVE: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, NEW CREATION

Every passage fits into God's big story. Ask:

Creation – How does this text reflect God's original design?

Fall – How does it reveal the brokenness of humanity?

Redemption – How does this passage connect to God's saving work in Christ?

New Creation – How does it anticipate God's renewal of all things?

CONTEXT REALLY MATTERS!

The difference between a dictionary and a story:

In a **story**, context is everything—a sentence only makes sense in the wider narrative.

In a **dictionary**, each entry stands alone.

The Bible is a story, not a dictionary!

→ GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever heard a verse misused because it was taken out of context? What happened?
- How can misunderstanding the context distort the message of a passage?

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT IN BIBLE STUDY (30 MINUTES)

Levels of Context

1. **The Verse** – Read in the sentence and paragraph.
2. **The Paragraph** – Read in the chapter.
3. **The Chapter** – Read in the book.
4. **The Book** – Read in light of the Bible's whole story.

Example: Mark 11:12-14

Imagine you are preparing to teach this passage.

- What first steps would you take to understand it in context?
- How does this compare to your usual Bible reading or preparation?

PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

- Always ask: **Where does my passage fit into the larger book?**
- Look at the **book's purpose and themes** before zeroing in on details.
- Ask: **How does the wider context help me understand the author's intent?**