



TRAINING SESSION

Handling the Bible Well in Children's and Youth Ministry

Session 2



Part 2

Digging Deeper – Exegesis in Bible Teaching

What is Exegesis?

DEFINITION OF EXEGESIS AND EISEGESIS

Exegesis (*exēgeomai* = “to draw out”) refers to discovering the **meaning intended by the original author** for the original audience.

Eisegesis is the opposite: reading **our own ideas into the text**, shaped by personal views or modern culture.

WHY DOES EXEGESIS MATTER?

Basic Steps of Exegesis

TEXT & CONTEXT – WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

Observe the details: read the passage **multiple times**.

Identify the **immediate literary context**—the verses and argument surrounding it.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT

Who was the **original audience**?

What **historical events or background** influenced the writing?

HOW DOES THIS FIT IN THE BIBLE’S BIG PICTURE?

Consider where the passage fits in **God’s redemptive story**.

Example: Exodus 12 (Passover) → Christ as the **Passover Lamb** (1 Corinthians 5:7).

AUTHOR’S INTENT – WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL MEANING?

Ask:

- Who wrote it?
- Who was it written to?
- Why was it written?

GENRE CONSIDERATIONS

Different genres require different interpretative approaches:

Narrative	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II King, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Acts	Main storyline of the Bible. Purpose of the narratives is to show God at work in his creation and among His people. Narratives are not first off about us, but God! They glorify Him, help us to understand and appreciate him, show us his providence and protection. Do provide illustrations of many lessons important to our lives too. OT narrative – they usually illustrate a doctrine or principle taught explicitly somewhere else in the bible. Behaviour of characters in narrative are often descriptive rather than prescriptive. They are flawed and are often a warning for us to learn from.
------------------	---	---

Gospel	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	<p>Historical biographical accounts of Jesus' life.</p> <p>They are written with theological aims.</p> <p>Various styles within them – Jesus' speeches, Q&A, prayers, parables.</p>
Poetry	Psalms, Song of Songs, Lamentations	<p>Poetry – the heart cries of people living in the midst of the biblical story.</p> <p>Stirs our emotions and makes us feel.</p> <p>Crossing of the red sea: narrative & poetry Exodus 14:21-28 Exodus 15:4-10</p>
Wisdom	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes	<p>Godly insight to make us wise for salvation.</p> <p>Advice about attitudes and decisions linked with every-day life.</p> <p>Contrast to foolishness.</p> <p>Need to be taught alongside the gospel or it becomes moralistic. Jesus embodied wisdom perfectly.</p>
Prophecy	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	<p>God speaking through His appointed spokesperson.</p> <p>They are often calling God's people back to obedience to God's law and warning them of the consequences of not doing so.</p> <p>These things have been written FOR us but not directly addressed TO us.</p> <p>Lots of figurative language.</p>

Epistles	Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude	<p>Letters from apostles written to specific church communities. Logical arguments and follow a train of thought.</p> <p>Discover why the letter is being written, and what was going on for the audience of the letter. What particular issue or situation is the Apostle seeking to address?</p> <p>Reading the whole letter in one chunk can help with this.</p>
Apocalyptic	Daniel, Revelation	<p>Describes visions or reveals heavenly perspectives. Strong emphasis on God conquering evil and establishing His everlasting rule. Lots of symbolism and metaphorical language.</p> <p>Link it with the big story of the bible – exile and last days.</p> <p>Link the present with the eternal.</p> <p>Preach Christ – portraits of the Lord Jesus (Son of Man and the Lamb of God).</p>

KEY THEMES & WORDS – WHAT REPEATS OR STANDS OUT?

Look for repetition or emphasis in words, themes, or ideas.

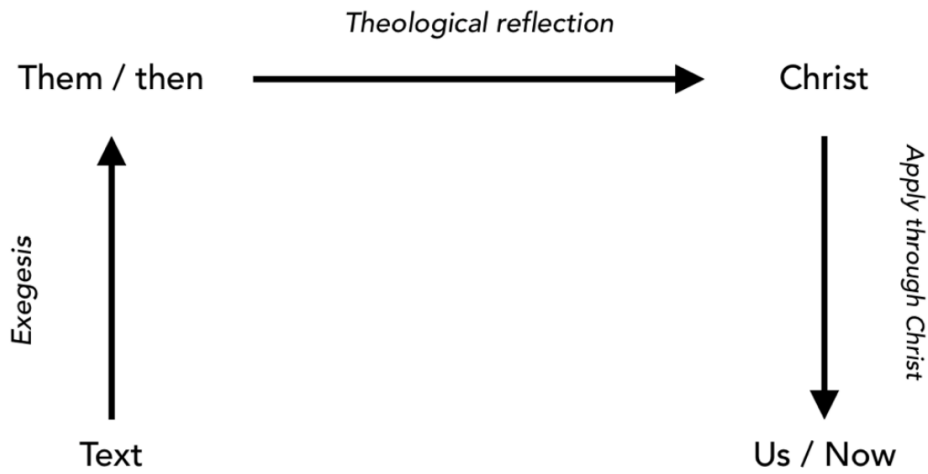
Example: *John 15* – The word “**abide**” appears 10 times, emphasising our union with Christ.

CHRIST AT THE CENTRE – HOW DOES THE PASSAGE POINT TO JESUS?

Luke 24:27 – Jesus explained that **all Scripture points to Him**.

Look for:

- Direct prophecy
- Typology
- Redemptive themes
- Gospel fulfilment



Interactive Exercise: Exegetical Bible Study

Passage: Mark 8:22–26

- What do these verses tell you **on their own**?
- Now read *Mark 8:14–21* and *Mark 8:27–30*. How does the **context** shape our understanding?
- What does Mark want to show by placing this healing **between** the disciples' blindness and Peter's confession?

Closing Discussion & Prayer

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are the **challenges** in applying exegesis to children's ministry?
How can we make our teaching **both faithful and engaging**?

PRAYER

Prayer for faithfulness in Bible teaching.

Ask the Spirit to help us rightly handle the Word of truth and point the next generation to Christ.