



TRAINING SESSION

Handling the Bible Well in Children's and Youth Ministry

Session 2





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Part 2

Digging Deeper – Exegesis in Bible Teaching

Reading, interpreting, and teaching Scripture well requires careful attention to the **author's intent** and a desire to help young people **engage with the truth of God's Word**. Our role is not to impose our own ideas onto the text but to faithfully draw out what God has revealed in Scripture.

Through **exegesis**, we seek to understand the Bible as it was intended to be understood—examining the **historical, cultural, and literary context** so that we may teach it clearly and accurately. By doing this, we equip ourselves to handle the Word rightly, allowing it to shape our hearts and those of the children and young people we teach.

1. What is Exegesis?

1.1 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.

1.2 EXAMPLE

- **Exegetical approach:** “What was Paul communicating to the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 2:8–9?”
- **Eisegetical approach:** “How does this verse confirm my preconceived theology or current situation?”

1.3 WHY DOES EXEGESIS MATTER?

- **Prevents misinterpretation** – Avoids errors caused by modern assumptions.
- **Honours the authority of Scripture** – Keeps God's Word as the foundation rather than personal opinion.
- **Ensures faithfulness in teaching** – Helps us handle the Word rightly (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. Basic Steps of Exegesis

2.1 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.

2.2 HISTORICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT

- Who was the **original audience**?
- What **historical events or background** influenced the writing?

2.3 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*).

2.4 AUTHOR'S INTENT - WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL MEANING?

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

2.5 GENRE CONSIDERATIONS

Different genres require different interpretative approaches:

- **Narrative**
- **Law**
- **Poetry**
- **Prophecy**
- **Epistle**
- **Apocalyptic**

2.6 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.

2.7 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

3. 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?

4. 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.