



Unit 1 – What does it say?

- (4) The Bible is a contemporary book that speaks to us today. God speaks to us through his word by his Spirit.
- (5) The three players in the hermeneutics process are the authors, the texts, and the readers.
- (6) The Bible has many unfamiliar words, look up new words, check the meaning of names, and check several translations.
- (8) Thinking about the structure can be appropriate for a whole Bible, a section within a book, a paragraph or a verse
- (8) Structural markers, repeated words or phrases, same location or time, bookends, sandwiches, and chiasm.
- (10) The Bible is much more than a novel, verses and paragraphs read out of context will not make much sense.

Question: In Psalm 42 what phrases are repeated? Do you see a bookend in this Psalm?

Unit 2 – Why does it say it?

- (12) The authors used different ways of writing, phrases, illustrations images, arguments as well as other styles.
- (12) They also used different genres, narrative, letter, poetry, apocalyptic and wisdom.
- (15) The text only makes sense when taken in its proper context.
- (16) We need to constantly refer our understanding of verses and paragraphs back to our understanding of the book as a whole.

Question: What illustrations or images do you see in the Psalm? What makes the understanding of the images and illustrations important and can you use them in your own personal bible study?

Unit 3 – So what does it mean for us?

- (18) We need to ask who it was written to, was it to a person or to community of people?
- (20) What response should we make today?
- (21) Does it apply to Christians, the church, unbelievers, or the world?

Question: What one bit of truth from Psalm 42 can you immediately apply to one bit of your life?

Unit 4 – What is it trying to do?

- (25) The first job as teachers of God's word is to make it clear.
- (25) The teaching should address the mind, the will and the heart.
- (26) So the goal should be to address desires, treasures, delights, longings, fears, hopes and worship of our hearts and redirect to God.
- (28) A renewed affection for God is the only thing that will expel sinful desires from our hearts.

Question: How does Psalm 42 instruct your mind, stir your heart and cause you to act?

Unit 5 – The story of promise

- (30) The Bible is a story, the story of God's great plan of salvation.
- (31) Tom Wright describes the story in 5 acts, creation, the fall, Israel, Jesus, the church and the new creation
- (33) The promises are enshrined in covenants with Abraham, with Moses, with David, and the new covenant in Christ

Exercise: As a group tell the Bible story from creation to the new creation

Guidance:

Quickly recap the small group rules.

Keep the discussion at the personal level, how does this affect me or how do I need to change.

Try to get everyone in the group involved in the discussion.

Guard against any one person dominating the discussion.

Keep the discussion focused on the recap so as to avoid "rabbit trails".

Act as the facilitator not the teacher.