

Connex Group Workbook - Session 3 – Knowing & Reading the Gospel continued

Session 3 Focus: Meditating on the Gospel

“Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message, I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church. But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favour on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Read, then apply the process of mediation to the above scripture:



1. **What** does this passage teach me about God?

2. **What** does this passage teach me about the church?

3. **What** does this passage teach me about the world?

4. **What** does this passage teach me about myself? About my own desires and motives?

5. **Does** this passage require that I take action, If so, what action should I take?

6. **What** do I need to confess and/or repent of?

7. **What** have I learned from this passage that will help me to focus on God and strive for His glory?

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Read, then apply the process of mediation to the scripture below:

“Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favouritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. “And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.””

Acts 10:34-43 NLT

1. What were the key elements of the gospel that Peter preached? Summarise them in a list.



2. Do you think modern day preaching of the gospel bears much resemblance to the outline of gospel truth that Peter shared?

3. How did Peter’s memory of the **Hebrew scriptures** shape the way he preached the gospel story?

4. In Acts 19:9-15 Peter’s experience in prayer would prove to be a significant factor in his preaching to the household of Cornelius. Write down how God has ministered to you before he ministered through you...is he still highlighting areas for change?

5. Can our lack of change hinder the advance of gospel preaching?

6. Consider the place of prayer in the development of Peter’s ministry...Luke 9:18-20, 28; 11:1; 18:1 ;22:31, 39; 24:52-53; Acts 1:14,24; 2:42b ; 3:1; 4:24,31;