**Leaders in Worship – Session 2**

**The whole bible in one evening**

**Introduction**

Why the bible is so important to our life as Mission Community:

* Its how we hear God speak
* It shapes our lives as individuals and churches

**What the bible is and what it isn’t**

**It is:** A collection of 66 books; 39 in Old Testament and 27 in NT

 Written by over 30 people over 1,300 years

 Consist of different genres – needs to be understood on its own terms

 Inspired by God: Contains all that’s needful for salvation (2 Timothy 3.15)

Useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

(2 Timothy 3.16)

Trustworthy (psalm 119.160, John 17.17)

Means by which God speaks to us:

 Lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119.105)

 Sweeter than honey from the comb (Psalm 119.103)

Always achieves the purpose for which God sent it (Isaiah 55.9-11)

**It isn’t:** A scientific manual

 A lucky dip

 Out of date, ignorant or irrelevant!

**The story of the bible**

Pre-history:

**Creation** Genesis

**Fall** Genesis

**The call of God’s people:**

 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (2000BC) Genesis

 Egypt (1700) Exodus

The Exodus (1260BC) Exodus

Entry into the Promised Land (1300BC) Exodus, Leviticus. Numbers,

Deuteronomy, Joshua

The rise and fall of the nation:

 Judges (1200BC) Judges, Ruth

 Kings and prophets (1050BC) 1 &2 Samuel, 1 &2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles

Joel(?), Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Jeremiah,

Lamentations, Habakuk

 Exile (Israel – 724BC; Judah – 597BC) Daniel, Ezekiel, Obadiah,

 Return & hope of God’s intervention (538BC) Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai,

Zechariah, Malachi,

Wisdom literature: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes,

Song of Songs

**The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus** (4BC-33AD) Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

**The age of the Spirit** (33AD – now) Acts, Epistles

**The promise of a new heaven and earth**(?) Revelation

**Versions of the Bible**

All English versions of the bible are translations (from the Hebrew and Greek).

Modern versions are based on better texts than the King James Authorised version)

Accurate translation: New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Good ‘all-rounder’: New International Version

Easy to read and understand: Good News Bible

Children’s version: New International Children’s Version

Paraphrase: The Message

**How to read the bible in church**

* Read the passage through first to understand the context, genre and meaning, and how to say difficult words
* Introduce the reading so people know where its from and can follow in their own bible
* Speak clearly and with sufficient volume – look up
* Pace the reading

Get creative:

* ‘Perform’
* Dramatize
* Act (prepared or spontaneous)
* Show pictures
* Involve the congregation (key words, actions, responses)
* In “all-age” worship consider using children’s versions of the bible

**How to read the bible for personal devotion**

* Find a quiet space and make time
* Pray – ask God to speak to you
* Read a passage (its best to read a whole book, or even the whole bible, bit by bit)
* Ponder:
	+ What did the passage mean in its context?
	+ What does it mean today?
	+ What do I need to learn, do or pray?
	+ Is there anything specific God is saying to me?
	+ Is there anything I don’t understand which I need to explore further?
* Pray – turn what you’ve read into prayer

These may help:

* Some bible reading notes
* A commentary

**Resources**

**For understanding the bible**

A study bible, e.g. NIV Srudy Bible, Life Application bible

A bible user’s manual, e.g. The Bible book A Users Guide, by Nick Page or The NIV Bible Handbook by Alistair McGrath

A bible dictionary e.g. The Ultimate bible Dictionary by Holman, or a second hand IVP dictionary

Commentaries on the books of the bible

The Bible for Everyone series by N.T. Wright is a good place to start

**For use in Church**

The Dramatized Bible

The Beginners Bible

Anything by Bob Hartman – brilliant retelling of bible stories for children

**Personal devotion**

Bible reading notes

 Try BRF, Scripture Union, Good book Company, You Version App

**Online bible especially good for finding passages or looking up words**

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

**What sort of literature are the following:**

Matthew 6.1-4

Mathew 13.24-30

Matthew 27.57-61

Ephesians

Revelation 5.1-5

Isaiah 43.1

Proverbs 13.1

Psalm 150

Song of Songs 5.10-16

Genesis 1.1-2.3