**Leaders in Worship – Session 3**

**The “sermon slot”**

**Introduction**

Only those who hold a bishop’s licence can preach – this is to ensure that what is taught from the front of church is delivered by those who have been ‘tested’ and trained.

There are other ways in which we can make the most of the ‘sermon slot’

**The aim of the sermon slot**

* Preaching?
* Teaching?
* Encouraging?
* Imparting information?

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. *Collect for Bible Sunday*

* Hear God speak
* Learn how to follow Jesus
* Be encouraged to live for Jesus

(individually and collectively; initially and ongoing)

**How can we make the most of the sermon slot?**

* Recorded sermons

Ministry team

Others – Purpose Driven Life, Alpha

* Pre-written sermons

Ministry team

Others

* ‘Alternatives to a sermon’

Meditation

Thought for the day

All-age talk

A testimony

A book review

Bible study

Discussion

**Bible study**

Everyone needs a copy of the passage

Read the passage

Explain the context – where in the bible, who wrote it, why

Have a few questions ready to guide the discussion:

 To help people get to the heart of the passage

 To apply it to their lives

 To apply it to our church and community

Give people space to process what you’ve talked about with God

 Silence

 Prayer

 Ministry

If stuff comes up you don’t know or can’t handle, tell people you will find out and ask a member of the ministry team.

***Giving it a go:***

*Sunday 23rd February: The Sunday before Lent*

*Matthew 17.1-9: The Transfiguration*

*What might you say to introduce the passage?*

*What questions might you ask to help people get to the heart of the passage?*

*What theme/ideas might you discuss together?*

*How will you turn this into prayer/action?*

**What makes a good question?**

**Troubleshooting**

1. Someone talks too much
2. Someone knows it all
3. Someone has an agenda
4. Superficial discussion
5. Oversharing

Others?

**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 13th May, 7.30pm: High Bickington Church Hall**

**Resources**

**For understanding the bible**

A study bible, e.g. NIV Study 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

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

**Leading bibles studies/discussion**

Leading life-changing small groups, Bill Donahue

Making small groups work, Henry cloud and John Townsend

Building a church of small groups, Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson

Good things come in small groups, Scripture Union

**Talks**

Common Worship All-Age talks, Susan Sayers

Getting it across – 100 talks for family worship, Nick Fawcett

No ordinary stories – meditations and worship material on the parables,

Nick Fawcett

Bible voices – meditations from creation to apocalypse, Anthony Geering

Telling the Bible – stories and readings for sharing aloud, Bob Hartman

**Match the events with the places**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Where the ark landed | Garden of Gethsemane |
| Where Jesus was arrested | Road to Damascus |
| Where Abraham came from | Eden |
| 10 commandments given | By the rivers of Babylon |
| Martha and Mary lived here | Mount Ararat |
| Paul’s conversion | Malta |
| The first garden | Mount Sinai |
| Where Israel ‘sat down and wept’ | Bethany |
| Philip met the Ethiopian | Ur |
| Where Paul was shipwrecked | Cana |
| Amos’ birth place | Sodom and Gomorrah |
| Jesus turned water into wine | Road from Jerusalem to Gaza |
| Synagogue where Jesus preached his first sermon | Persia |
| Where Esther was queen | Nazareth |
| Island where John wrote revelation | Tekoa |
| Lot’s wife turned to salt | Patmos |