This book doesn't have any answers!

The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.

UCCF Doctrinal Basis

Session #2
The Attention the Bible Requires
How do we get to grips with the intentions of the biblical authors as these are expressed in the inspired pages of Scripture?

The Inspiration of the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16–17

‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.’

2 Peter 1:20–21

‘Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.’

Concursive

Concursive

Concursive
Incarnation

For Reflection
On balance, do you tend to emphasise the ‘divine’ at the expense of the ‘human’ – or the other way round – when it comes to understanding the Bible? Why might that be the case? Why is it important to hold the two together?

The Intention of the Author

‘Wonderful things in the Bible I see… Most of them put there by you and by me.’

John 20:30–31
‘Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.’

1 John 5:13
‘I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life.’
Luke 1:1–4

‘Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us… With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.’

1 Timothy 3:14–15

‘Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing to you with these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.’

2 Peter 3:1

‘Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.’

Jude 3

‘Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.’

The Author’s Intention
The Author’s Intention
as laid down in the text
and the significance for the reader
and the inspiration of Scripture

The Author’s Intention
as laid down in the text
and the significance for the reader
and the inspiration of Scripture

The Author’s Intention
as laid down in the text
and the significance for the reader
and the inspiration of Scripture

The Meaning
of the text
Readings for Meaning

Literary context
Reading for the literary flow

‘W’

1 Corinthians
12 – Spiritual Gifts
13 – Love
14 – Spiritual Gifts

‘W’

John 2:1–11
WORDS
John 2:1–11

WORDS
‘Woman’ (2:4)
‘Time’ (2:4)
‘Glory’ (2:11)

LITERARY CONTEXT
1:50–51
2:12–21
The rest of John

Reading for the literary flow
Reading for Meaning

Squashed Insects don’t bite.
Mad Mental rule.
Insects bite!
Squashed Insects don’t bite.
Mad Mental rule.

‘Very funny, Scotty...
Now beam down my clothes.’
**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Galilee?
Weddings?
Wine?
Washing

**Reading for Meaning**

Literary context
Reading for the literary flow

Historical context
Reading for the historical background

**Reading Ezekiel**

Biblical context
Reading for the big picture
Reading Ezekiel in Scripture as a whole

John 2:1–11

BIBLICAL CONTEXT
- Wine (Jeremiah 31:12; Amos 9:13–14)
- Messianic banquet (Isaiah 25:6–8)
- Jesus’ meals
- Lord’s Supper
- Wedding supper of the lamb

Reading for Meaning
- Literary context
  Reading for the literary flow
- Historical context
  Reading for the historical background
- Biblical context
  Reading for the big picture
For Reflection
What is the one thing you'd like to take away from our discussion of the three keys for reading Scripture?