Hearing God’s Voice in the Pages of Scripture
Antony Billington

UCCF Doctrinal Basis
‘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.’

Session #4
The Transformation the Bible Brings

How do we read the Bible not only to know God better but also to be transformed by his authoritative word in the whole of life?

Readers and Authority
To speak about the authority of Scripture is really to say more about God, and about the ways he chooses to act and speak in the world, than it is to say something directly about Scripture itself. The authority of Scripture is dependent entirely on the authority of God, and comes about only because of what God has chosen to do in the way he authored Scripture, and because of what he continues to do in presenting himself to us through Scripture as the God we can know and trust.

Timothy Ward, *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God* (Nottingham: IVP, 2009), 130.

**UCCF Doctrinal Basis**

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_Scripture as the Supreme Authority_ in _UCCF Doctrinal Basis_.
Reading to get involved
Reading from where I stand
Reading according to our community

‘W’
Reading to get involved

‘W’
Reading to get involved

‘W’
Reading to get involved

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY
‘READ’ THE BIBLE
Readers and Reading

Reading with humility

Reading with others

Reading in a spiral

Reading for the two horizons

[Diagram: Hermeneutical Spiral]

BIBLICAL TEXT  PREUNDERSTANDING
The Two Horizons

Text
Reader

John 2
Me/Us

Readers and Reading
Reading with humility
Reading with others
Reading in a spiral
Reading for the two horizons
Reading as a progressive experience
Reading ethically
Some Questions
(a) What does this passage reveal about God/Jesus/the gospel?
(b) How does this passage shape our understanding of what it means to be a disciple?
(c) Given my current situation:
   ◆ What sticks out from this passage?
   ◆ What connects with my situation?
   ◆ What challenges me?
   ◆ What encourages me?
(d) What would I want to pray as a result of reading this passage?
(e) What might living out this passage look like for me?

For Reflection
Which, if any, of our reflections on readers and reading sticks out as personally significant to you? Why?
Ezekiel 2:8-3:3

The Prophet’s Diet
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