

## Engaging with Scripture online – Notes from Training Session (May 2020)

We read [2 Peter 1:12-21](#) and talked about what the value in reading scripture together is:

- Peter sees a huge importance in continuing to remind believers of the truth, even those who are firmly established ([v12](#))
- It's reliable and trustworthy ([v16-18, v19](#))
- It's worthy of paying careful attention to ([v19](#))
- It's like a light in a dark place – beautiful imagery of waiting in the darkness before dawn, and Scripture being like a light shining at that time ([v19](#))
- Above all, that it's not a human word, but that humans 'spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit' ([v21](#))

### Some tips from others for leading Bible discussions online:

- May need to be more structured than usual, especially if you are used to leading dynamically in response to reading the room
- Short, observation type questions are more difficult (although you can usefully use the Chat function for these)
- Fewer and deeper questions may be more helpful
- Don't be afraid of silence, or to ask particular people to share (if you know that they will be okay with this!)
- You can use the annotate function, although our experience tonight illustrated how it may take a while for the technical side of this to run smoothly!

### Some practical options for engaging with Scripture online:

#### **1. Read passage beforehand and answer questions** on context, observation, meaning in advance

- Bring questions of things you don't understand
- Talk about application together

#### **2. [Coro Bible Reading Plan](#)** and discuss

- Would require the group being keen to all do this!
- Would mean that your main aim is individual Scripture engagement, and then just coming together to talk about big themes across the chunk of Scripture
- Has the added benefit of encouraging lots of Bible reading through the week, provides accountability

#### **3. Memorise and storytell?! Biblical storytelling**

- If suitable to your group, go through [these Biblical storytelling exercises](#) in an initial session, and then ask people to practice and present a gospel story at following sessions

#### **4. Follow sermon series** while we're doing a book of the Bible

- Read passage from Sunday (e.g. 1 Peter at the moment)
- Talk about key themes of the passage, what struck people, how the passage changes them (although for this option, remember that the point is to engage with Scripture, more than the sermon!)

## 5. Simpler questions for any passage

[Meet Jesus at uni – Our go-to questions for Scripture engagement](#)

- What do you like about it?
- What don't you like about it?
- What does it tell us about people/humanity?
- What does it tell us about God?
- What will you change as a result of it?

OR

- What's something you notice?
- What questions do you have?
- Is there anything that bothers you?
- What do you learn about loving God?
- What do you learn about loving others?

OR

- What strikes you?
- How does this change you?

## 6. Use screen share to annotate or fill in tables etc.

## 7. Breakout rooms – even multiple times

- To answer a question or write a modern paraphrase
- Prepare debate topic
- Identify themes or pick a theme and discuss

## 8. Bible study booklets

- Often with brief commentary on each passage and useful discussion questions