
Expert in a New Testament Book

To complement the extensive Bible reading encouraged in MTS Training Exercise 1.03, the Apprentice will do an in-depth study of one New Testament book. The knowledge gained from this intensive study will reap benefits for the apprentice as they apply their preparation material in a variety of different teaching and ministry contexts.

Exercise

Choose a particular New Testament book for intensive study and teaching of others over the two years.

Aims

1. To learn skills in reading a book of the New Testament, such as:
 - analysing the structure and flow of argument
 - determining the meanings of words
 - interpreting different types of literary forms and devices, such as: narrative, teaching, parable, poetry, apocalyptic
 - interpreting quotations and allusions from the Old Testament
 - identifying major themes and the purpose of a book
 - summarising key doctrines
2. To become familiar with some of the tools available for New Testament study
3. To re-use the fruits of this study in a variety of teaching contexts during MTS, rather than preparing new studies each time. This efficiency in preparation time allows Apprentices to maximise their people-ministry time rather than spending hours preparing new material for every teaching occasion.

Apprentices

1. Choose a New Testament book for intensive study
2. Do some initial study following the guidelines in *Growth Groups*, chapter 4 (see Resources)
3. Be discerning in the use of commentaries
4. Prepare a series of Bible studies to use in leading small groups and utilise these studies as often as possible during MTS
5. Use this study in one-to-one Bible reading during MTS
6. Give a Bible talk (or series of talks) from this New Testament book
7. Use the study of this book to prepare and teach Scripture lessons, Sunday School classes and youth Bible studies

Trainers

- Discuss with your Apprentice your own approach to intensive study of a New Testament book before a sermon series, including your use of commentaries etc.
- Note the Apprentice's increasing understanding of the book. Provide them with opportunities to use their new knowledge in a variety of contexts.

- Listen to a Bible study or talk from this study and give feedback.

Resources

- New Bible Commentary, (IVP)
- New Bible Dictionary, (IVP)
- Growth Groups, Colin Marshall (Matthias Media: 1995)
- Postcard from Palestine, (Matthias Media)
- Interactive Bible Studies, (Matthias Media)