



Welcome

**Introducing Porterbrook Training
Q +A**

Overview of first modules

Q+A

10.20 COFFEE BREAK

Workshop on Module 1 Unit 1

12.00 END

The Study books



Exercise

Two questions with the same answer ...

1. Read Galatians 2:1-2. Why does Paul mean when he says he feared he might discover in Jerusalem that he had run his race in vain? Remember that Paul emphasises in Galatians that he does not need the approval of anyone, including the apostles in Jerusalem (Galatians 1:10, 15-17; 2:11).
2. Read Romans 15:30-31. Why does Paul ask the Roman Christians to struggle in prayer that his 'service' might be acceptable to the saints in Jerusalem when his 'service' a gift of money to needy people (Romans 15:25-26)?



Reflect

- From what we know of the story what can we learn about hospitality from how God creates a place for Adam and Eve?
- Can you remember a time when you, though stranger, were treated like family in a host environment?
- Consider God's commands to his people regarding strangers. See Leviticus 19:9-10, 33-34; Deuteronomy 10:18-19. How do they reflect their experience of receiving or not receiving hospitality? How should this inform how we care for those around us?



Watch

Freedom in the movie *Braveheart*.

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=83-AzCdr1XY>

The notion of freedom can evoke strong emotions. But what is freedom?
How would you define it?



Exercise

Look at John 8:31-36. According to Jesus, what causes people to be enslaved? What enables people to be free?

I sometimes do an exercise with groups in which we look at adverts and ask what they promise. Here is the list from one set of adverts: ‘power, peace, status, revival, a different dimension, paradise, values, a happy family life, performance, freedom, spirituality, comfort, enlightenment, friendship, the breath of life, reconciliation, identity, life, escape, balance, therapy, a future,

²⁰ Sue Edwards, *In Too Deep* (Citizens Advice Bureau, 2003), p. 8.

²¹ Cited in Tom Sine, *Mustard Verses McWorld* (Monarch, 1999), p. 227.

²² Cited by Ben Summerskill, *The Observer*, May 6, 2001.

²³ Cited by Ben Summerskill, *The Observer*, May 6, 2001.



Further Reading

Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*, Dutton, 2008.

Tim Chester and Steve Timmis, *Total Church*, IVP/Crossway, 2007/2008, chapter 11.

Campbell Campbell-Jack & Gavin J. McGrath (eds.), *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics*, IVP, 2006, part one.

Amy Orr-Ewing, *But Is It real? Answers to 10 Common Objections to the Christian Faith*, IVP, 2008

Michael Ots, *What Kind of God? Responding to 10 Popular Accusations*, IVP, 2008.

John M. Frame, *Apologetics to the Glory of God*, P&R, 1994.

Gospel Living

Contents

1. A life for God
2. A love for God
3. Looking back: to the cross
4. Looking around: at the Christian community
5. Looking forward: to eternity
6. Living now: decisions
7. Living now: friendships
8. Living now: horizons
9. Living now: possessions

The of "Guidance" by Mark Dever¹¹

The way many Christians practice seeking God's will before they make a decision amounts to spiritual and emotional . Christ has died to give us liberty and freedom (Romans 6; Galatians 5; 1 Peter 2). We can only know the truth about God's will by what His Spirit reveals to us. He has revealed God's mind authoritatively in His Word. We should give ourselves to study what He has revealed. Personal reading, meditation, sermons, friends and books are all available to us to help us to better understand God's revealed will.

I do believe that God's Spirit will sometimes lead us subjectively. So, for instance, I



The Bondage of "Guidance"

¹¹ Mark Dever, 'The of "Guidance"' (blog.togetherforthegospel.org, 20 February, 2008).

Exposition and Biblical Theology

Contents

1. What does it say?
2. Why does it say it?
3. So what does it mean for us?
4. What is it trying to do?
5. The story of promise
6. The promise of a people who know God
7. The promise of a place of blessing
8. The promise of a king and a kingdom
9. The promise of blessing to the nations

Assignment

After working through unit 1, ask ‘what does it say?’ of Mark 4:35-5:20.

After working through unit 2, ask ‘why does it say it?’ of Mark 4:35-5:20.

After working through unit 3, ask ‘what does it mean for us?’ of Mark 4:35-5:20.

After working through unit 4, ask ‘what is it trying to do?’ of Mark 4:35-5:20.

After working through units 5-9 explore what light biblical theology throws on Mark 4:35-5:20. Identify which of the different strands of the promise appear in the passage.

Make notes of your findings and come ready to discuss the passage at the residential.

Apologetics

Contents

1. Presuppositional apologetics
2. Relational apologetics
3. Defeater beliefs
4. Qu1: The proof for God
5. Qu2: Other religions
6. Qu3: Suffering
7. Qu4: Truth and freedom
8. Qu5: Hell
9. Qu6: Science and miracles

Assignment

Complete *one* of the following two options:

1. Prepare a seven-minute presentation in which you describe a conversation around an apologetic question in which you have been involved and identify how you applied principles described in this module.
2. Prepare a seven-minute talk addressing an apologetic question.

Missional Community Life

Contents

1. Missional context
 2. Missional community
 3. Missional engagement
 4. Missional intentionality
 5. Missional rhythms
 6. Missional hospitality
 7. Missional stewardship of time
 8. Missional stewardship of money
 9. Missional grace
- Appendix: Forming a missional community

Assignment

Prepare a seven-minute presentation covering the following:

- describe your missional community (church plant, church, house group)
- evaluate how well it embodies a vision for missional community
- identify steps you are taking or planning to strengthen your own participation in missional community life

House Groups	Missional Communities
House groups often tend to be a weekly meeting. People talk about ‘house group night’ – the evening in which they ‘do’ house group by attending a meeting.	A missional community is about a shared life, a network of relationships, a genuine community of people.
House groups are often centred around a Bible study.	The Bible is central to the life of a missional community, but the Bible is read, discussed and lived and throughout the week in the context of a shared life.
House groups are often insular and focused on the mutual care of their members.	Pastoral care is a feature of missional communities, but they are also groups with a strong sense of mission. They can articulate their vision for mission and identify the specific people they are trying to reach.
House groups are normally managed centrally by the church leadership. Leaders are often fearful of house groups becoming independent.	Missional communities are given a mandate to reproduce organically or spin off into church plants.

Q & A