

Talking about the Bible

This document contains the teacher notes for five Sunday school lessons on talking about the Bible. There is a complementary document containing student handouts that can be shared with listeners to aid them with this material. Lastly, there are three PowerPoint presentations to assist with visually displaying this content. All of these resources are available at OurSundaySchool.com.

I claim no infallibility relative to the material presented here. It is, as many have said before, beggars showing other beggars where to find bread. These resources are provided free for you to use in the spirit of [Matthew 10:8b](#).

As errors are found, please let me know so I can correct. The theology expressed here should not be construed as representing the theology of Stuart Heights Baptist Church (especially when I am wrong or when I am being an idiot).

The formatting is as follows:

- **bold green text are quotes from outside sources**
- **bold red text is the Scripture** (NKJV is used unless otherwise noted. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)
- **bold blue text are Bible references**
- **bold purple text are questions to consider asking listeners while teaching this material**
- **highlighted, bold, and underlined text in the teacher notes are answers to blanks in the student handouts**
- plain black text are my comments

The audio recordings of these teachings are available via our class podcast (Our Sunday School).

I hope these resources assist in enabling you to have a more Bible-informed process when talking about the Bible. Feel free to contact me at jim314@yahoo.com with questions or feedback.

Grace and peace,

Jim Fleming
Hixson, Tennessee
December 2018

Talking about the Bible

Assumptions (belief without definitive proof)

1. **All** believers talk about the Bible

Informally with kids, family members, coworkers, and/or friends

Formally in church settings (Sunday school, worship services)

2. Believers don't always follow a very **Bible**-informed process (when talking about the Bible)

Have you ever wanted to go back and 'redo' a conversation about the Bible? None of us gets it right all of the time (sometimes we move too quickly, sometimes we say things that aren't true, and sometimes we make it up).

3. In our current age of outrage, believers **can** do better

The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ deserves a biblical approach.

Objectives (what we want in talking about the Bible)

1. Be **prepared** (Titus 2:1-5)

1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.) Older women are to teach. Older men are to be sound in faith. Both of these involve knowing and communicating truth. Let's be ready for old age.

2. Be **faithful** (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.) We are stewards of God's word.

3. Be **engaging** (heads, hearts, and hands)

We are not trying to create Pharisees, but faithful believers—just like Jesus.

Assertions (these things are true)

1. God tells us what the Bible **is** (it is God's authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, and sufficient word; HT: Wayne Grudem; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. God tells us what the Bible **gives** (2 Peter 1:1-4)

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God has given us everything we need related to life and godliness. We have this from knowledge of God from the power of God through the Son of God as revealed in the word of God.

3. God tells us the **resources** He provides (to help believers talk about the Bible)

God has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His church to help us. The Holy Spirit and the Bible provide illumination and the church provides confirmation (and/or rebuke). (And we scale up and down as opportunities and wisdom dictates.)

Schedule (where we're going, Lord willing)

Today: Introduction & praying; **next week:** hearing; **December 2:** thinking; **December 9:** talking; **December 16:** sharing

Overview of this series

The Bible gives us ideas on how to approach talking about the Bible. These include praying for help, hearing God's word, thinking about God's word, talking to others about God's word, and finally sharing God's word.

There's no single passage that walks us through all of these steps, but this series is about looking across the Scriptures to see what the Bible tells us about how to talk about the Bible—because if the Bible gives us all things for life and godliness, it will certainly tell us how to use the Bible.

Process Step #1: Pray

Our attitudes

1. **Fear** (Proverbs 9:10)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. When we talk about the Bible, we are talking about God's very words. There should be fear with this because God does not take this lightly. We shouldn't either.

2. **Dependence** (2 Chronicles 20)

12: O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You. This is also an acknowledgement that we are not God.

3. **Expectancy** (Psalm 119:18; James 1:5)

Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. We can trust God to be faithful to His word.
If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. God desires to give to His own.

Our actions

1. Pray for **illumination** (1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:15-21)

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. The Spirit enables us to understand what God has given to us.

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

2. Pray for **wisdom** (James 1:5)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

3. Pray for **hearing** for the hearers (Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

BLT: pray before we talk

Next week: Process Step #2: Hear

Homework

1. Pray for help in understanding _____
2. Invite a member or non-member

Suggested resource

Jen Wilkin, *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 103-108.

Talking about the Bible

Review: Assumptions, Objectives, and Assertions

Assumptions (belief without definitive proof)

1. **All believers talk about the Bible** (informally and/or formally)
2. **Believers don't always follow a very Bible-informed process** (when talking about the Bible)
3. **In our current age of outrage, believers can do better**

Objectives (what we want in talking about the Bible)

1. **Be prepared** (**Titus 2:1-5**) (be prepared for old age)
2. **Be faithful** (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**) (we are stewards of God's word)
3. **Be engaging** (heads, hearts, and hands)

Assertions (these things are true)

1. **God tells us what the Bible is** (God's authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, and sufficient word; HT: Wayne Grudem; **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12**)
2. **God tells us what the Bible gives** (**2 Peter 1:1-4**)
3. **God tells us the resources He provides** (To help believers talk about the Bible, God has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His church to help us. The Holy Spirit and the Bible provide illumination and the church provides confirmation (and/or rebuke). And we scale up and down as opportunities and wisdom dictates.)

Schedule (where we're going, Lord willing)

Last week: Introduction & praying; **today:** hearing; **December 2:** thinking; **December 9:** talking; **December 16:** sharing

Overview of this series

The Bible gives us ideas on how to approach talking about the Bible. These include praying for help, hearing God's word, thinking about God's word, talking to others about God's word, and finally sharing God's word.

There's no single passage that walks us through all of these steps, but this series is about looking across the Scriptures to see what the Bible tells us about how to talk about the Bible—because if the Bible gives us all things for life and godliness, it will certainly tell us how to use the Bible.

Review: Process Step #1: Pray

Our attitudes

1. Fear (**Proverbs 9:10**)
2. Dependence (**2 Chronicles 20**)
3. Expectancy (**Psalm 119:18; James 1:5**)

Our actions

1. Pray for illumination (**1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:15-21**)
2. Pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**)
3. Pray for hearing for the hearers (**Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22**)

Our practice: pray before we talk

Let's practice last week's lesson as we start this week's lesson. Take a moment and ensure you have an attitude of fear, dependence, and expectancy about the Scripture we are about to hear.

Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate this week's text (**John 18:1-11**), ask for wisdom, and pray for the hearing of the other believers in this room.

Now, let's transition to this week's lesson.

Process Step #2: Hear

What it is not

Hearing is not **reading**. Hearing is hearing.

There's nothing wrong with reading—reading the Bible is encouraged in the Bible. The Bible commands kings and spiritual leaders to be able to read the Bible and a special blessing is given in **Revelation** for reading **Revelation**, but the majority of commands in the Bible for consuming God's word are around hearing, not reading. We'll talk more about reading and how to read in next week's lesson.

What it is

Hearing the Bible being read **out loud** (in Bible times, live by another believer).

Here are a few takeaways from a few passages where the Bible is read out loud.

Our attitudes

1. Respect (Nehemiah 8:1-8)

1 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. **2** So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. **3** Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

4 So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. **5** And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. **6** And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. **8** So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

How often does the way we listen mimic these listeners' approach?

2. Deference (Nehemiah 8:9) (Merriam Webster: (1) respect and esteem due a superior or an elder, (2) affected or ingratiating regard for another's wishes)

And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. These people were moved by how their lives did not match what the word of God said and they wept. They deferred to the Scripture on how their lives were to be lived. May the same be said of us.

Our actions

1. **Read** the Bible out loud to others (1 Thessalonians 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3)

I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

2. **Hear** the Bible being read aloud (1 Thessalonians 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3)

I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

BLTs: hearing isn't reading and hear more often

Our practice: John 18:1-11

Now, please join me in practicing this week's lesson. Please take a moment to consciously respect God's word and to position your heart to defer to whatever it teaches in **John 18:1-11**.

I'll read **John 18:1-11** out loud, then I'll ask for volunteers at each table to read **John 18:1-11** out loud at your table as well. Once you have completed reading **John 18:1-11** out loud at your table, you are free to begin the table prayer time.

John 18:1-11 (NKJV)

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. 3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," 9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Let's get one volunteer at each table to read **John 18:1-11** out loud at your table. Once you have completed reading **John 18:1-11** out loud at your table, you are free to begin the table prayer time.

Next week: Process Step #3: Think

Homework (note that these steps are additive)

1. Pray for help in understanding **John 18:1-11**
2. Hear **John 18:1-11** often this week
3. Invite a member or non-member

Suggested resource

Jeffrey Arthurs, *Devote Yourself to the Public Reading of Scripture: The Transforming Power of the Well-Spoken Word* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2012).

Talking about the Bible

Review: Assumptions, Objectives, and Assertions

Assumptions (belief without definitive proof)

1. **All believers talk about the Bible** (informally and/or formally)
2. **Believers don't always follow a very Bible-informed process** (when talking about the Bible)
3. **In our current age of outrage, believers can do better**

Objectives (what we want in talking about the Bible)

1. **Be prepared** (**Titus 2:1-5**) (be prepared for old age)
2. **Be faithful** (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**) (we are stewards of God's word)
3. **Be engaging** (heads, hearts, and hands)

Assertions (these things are true)

1. **God tells us what the Bible is** (God's authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, and sufficient word; HT: Wayne Grudem; **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12**)
2. **God tells us what the Bible gives** (**2 Peter 1:1-4**)
3. **God tells us the resources He provides** (To help believers talk about the Bible, God has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His church to help us. The Holy Spirit and the Bible provide illumination and the church provides confirmation (and/or rebuke). And we scale up and down as opportunities and wisdom dictates.)

Schedule (where we're going, Lord willing)

Week 1: pray; **week 2:** hear; **today:** think; **December 9:** talk; **December 16:** share

Overview of this series

The Bible gives us ideas on how to approach talking about the Bible. These include praying for help, hearing God's word, thinking about God's word, talking to others about God's word, and finally sharing God's word.

There's no single passage that walks us through all of these steps, but this series is about looking across the Scriptures to see what the Bible tells us about how to talk about the Bible—because if the Bible gives us all things for life and godliness, it will certainly tell us how to use the Bible.

And, since confidence comes from familiarity, we're going to practice a lot in class.

Review: Process Step #1: Pray

Our attitudes

1. Fear (**Proverbs 9:10**)
2. Dependence (**2 Chronicles 20**)
3. Expectancy (**Psalm 119:18; James 1:5**)

Our actions

1. Pray for illumination (**1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:15-21**)
2. Pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**)
3. Pray for hearing for the hearers (**Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22**)

Our practice: pray before we talk

Let's practice process step #1. Take a moment and ensure we have an attitude of fear, dependence, and expectancy about this text.

Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate this week's text (**John 18:1-11**), ask for wisdom, and pray for the hearing of the other believers in this room.

Review: Process Step #2: Hear

What it is not: hearing is not reading

What it is: hearing the Bible being read out loud

Our attitudes

1. Respect (**Nehemiah 8:1-8**)
2. Deference (**Nehemiah 8:9**)

Our actions

1. Read the Bible out loud to others (**1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Rev. 1:3**)
2. Hear the Bible being read aloud (**1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Rev. 1:3**)

Our practice: hearing isn't reading and hear more often

Let's practice process step #2. Take a moment to consciously respect God's word and to position our hearts to defer to whatever it teaches in **John 18:1-11**.

I'll read **John 18:1-11** out loud, and you please listen.

Now, let's move to process step #3.

Process Step #3: Think

Why do we need to think about God's word?

1 Corinthians 13:11: When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. There is a childish way of thinking. We shouldn't keep a childish mind.

Isaiah 55:8-9: 8 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.

9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. God doesn't think like me—*of*, yes; *like*, no.

Romans 8:5: For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. This takes focus and time and there is nothing here about hurried thoughts.

Our attitudes

1. **Humility** (Psalm 119:15, 27)

I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. Not my ways or my words, but His ways & words.

Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works. Not my works, but His works.

2. **Wonder** (Psalm 119:48; 92:5)

My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes. I hope there's been times when you think about God's word and you just throw up your hands in wonder.

O Lord, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep. His thoughts are **very deep**. My thoughts are not. Don't blow past His deepness.

3. **Steadfastness** (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2)

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Day and night. Day and night. Day and night.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. Day and night. Day and night.

Our actions

1. Think about God's word **day** and **night** (Psalm 63:6; 119:148)

**When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the *night* watches.**

**My eyes are awake through the *night* watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. What do we think about when we can't sleep?**

2. Think **up** (Colossians 3:2)

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. God's word is from above, so that certainly fits in this category.

One caution: Proverbs 23:7 & Hendricks & Hendricks quote about empty vs. filled.

BLT: slow down and think

Our practice: John 18:1-11

Let's practice process step #3. Take a moment to think in a humble way, a way that acknowledges wonder, and a way that steadfastly focuses on **John 18:1-11**.

For the next three minutes, just think about **John 18:1-11**. There will be dozens of distractions, but just think about these words.

Take three minutes and think.

If you feel the need to write down observations, that's fine, but I'd love for you to just think about **John 18:1-11**.

Next week: Process Step #4: Talk

Homework (note that these steps are additive)

1. Pray for help in understanding **John 18:1-11**
2. Hear **John 18:1-11** often this week
3. Think about **John 18:1-11** day and night week
4. Invite a member or non-member

Suggested resource

Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks, *Living by the Book* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1991), 110-114.

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Objectives (what we want in talking about the Bible)

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2. **Be faithful** (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**) (we are stewards of God's word)
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1. **God tells us what the Bible is** (God's authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, and sufficient word; HT: Wayne Grudem; **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12**)
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2. Pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**)
3. Pray for hearing for the hearers (**Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22**)

Our practice: pray before we talk

Let's practice process step #1. Take a moment and ensure we have an attitude of fear, dependence, and expectancy about this text.

Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate this week's text (**John 18:1-11**), ask for wisdom, and pray for the hearing of the other believers in this room.

Review: Process Step #2: Hear

What it is not: hearing is not reading

What it is: hearing the Bible being read out loud

Our attitudes

1. Respect (**Nehemiah 8:1-8**)
2. Deference (**Nehemiah 8:9**)

Our actions

1. Read the Bible out loud to others (**1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Rev. 1:3**)
2. Hear the Bible being read aloud (**1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Rev. 1:3**)

Our practice: hearing isn't reading and hear more often

Let's practice process step #2. Take a moment to consciously respect God's word and to position our hearts to defer to whatever it teaches in **John 18:1-11**.

I'll read **John 18:1-11** out loud, and you please listen.

Review: Process Step #3: Think

Why do we need to think about God's word?

There is a childish way of thinking, God does think like me, and this takes focus and time (not hurry). **1 Corinthians 13:11; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 8:5**

Our attitudes

1. **Humility** (**Psalm 119:15, 27**)
2. **Wonder** (**Psalm 119:48; 92:5**)
3. **Steadfastness** (**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2**)

Our actions

1. **Think about God's word day and night** (**Psalm 63:6; 119:148**)
2. **Think up** (**Colossians 3:2**)

One caution: **Proverbs 23:7** & Hendricks & Hendricks quote about empty vs. filled.

Our practice: slow down and think

Let's practice process step #3. Take a moment to think in a humble way, a way that acknowledges wonder, and a way that steadfastly focuses on **John 18:1-11**.

For the next one minute, just think about **John 18:1-11**. There will be distractions, but just think about these words. (If you feel the need to write down observations, that's fine, but I'd love for you to just think about **John 18:1-11**.)

Now, let's move to process step #4.

Process Step #4: Talk

What it is not: talking to others about my opinions. (This is me-focused and is a great way to turn ourselves into Pharisees who know and hypothesize and do nothing. God never calls us to guess about His word.)

What it is: talking with other believers (both alive and dead) to better understand God and His word. (This is God-focused.)

Our attitudes

1. **Incompleteness** (**Luke 2:52**)

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. If Jesus can increase in wisdom and in favor with God, certainly we should accept we have room to. This attitude creates space for the next attitude.

2. **Teachableness** (Acts 18:24-28)

24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. 27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; 28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Our actions

1. **Talk** to those willing to **teach** (Acts 28:24-28)
2. Use available **resources** (2 Timothy 4:13) (and go back to them as needed)

Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus [a person] **at Troas** [a city] **when you come—and the books** [*biblion*; a roll: bill, book, scroll, writing], **especially the parchments** [*membrana*; a (written) sheep-skin: parchment].

BLT: learn from others (i.e., we need we)

Our practice: John 18:1-11

Let's practice process step #4. Take a moment to acknowledge our incompleteness (of our knowledge of God and His word) and to approach **John 18:1-11** in a teachable way—in a way that says, "I don't know it all."

Resources exist to help us. Let's learn from others and from others' resources. One resource is blb.org. It has an online interlinear (a verse in the original language on top of a verse in English) that can help with a lot of information about the original.

Who has a question about a word in this text? Let's look up that word. Pull out your phones and go to blb.org.

As you are going to blb.org, let me remind us that this process is additive, not just sequential. Add step #2 to #1. Add step #3 to #1 & #2. Add #4 to #1, #2, and #3.

There are hundreds and hundreds of resources like this. But answering the question, "What's a good resource?" can be overwhelming. Where do we start? With people we know and study with—and with others who have been helpful.

Next week: Process Step #5: Share

Homework (note that these steps are additive)

1. Pray for help in understanding **John 18:1-11**
2. Hear **John 18:1-11** often this week
3. Think about **John 18:1-11** day and night week
4. Talk with someone (dead or alive) about **John 18:1-11** this week
5. Invite a member or non-member

Suggested resources

Daniel L. Akin, *Building a Theological Library*. Last updated 2017. danielakin.com: danielakin.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2017-BTL-web.pdf (Wake Forrest, NC: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2017).

Kay Arthur, David Arthur, and Pete De Lacy, *How to Study Your Bible* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2010), 157-192.

Jim Fleming, *Online Bible Study*. Last updated August 12, 2015. OurSundaySchool.com: [oursundayschool.com/resources/Online Bible Study \(Teacher\).pdf](http://oursundayschool.com/resources/Online Bible Study (Teacher).pdf).

Mark M. Yarbrough, *How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor* (New York, Boston, Nashville: Faith Words, 2015).



Talking about the Bible

Review: Assumptions, Objectives, and Assertions

Assumptions (belief without definitive proof)

1. **All believers talk about the Bible** (informally and/or formally)
2. **Believers don't always follow a very Bible-informed process** (when talking about the Bible)
3. **In our current age of outrage, believers can do better**

Objectives (what we want in talking about the Bible)

1. **Be prepared** (**Titus 2:1-5**) (be prepared for old age)
2. **Be faithful** (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**) (we are stewards of God's word)
3. **Be engaging** (heads, hearts, and hands)

Assertions (these things are true)

1. **God tells us what the Bible is** (God's authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, and sufficient word; HT: Wayne Grudem; **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12**)
2. **God tells us what the Bible gives** (**2 Peter 1:1-4**)
3. **God tells us the resources He provides** (To help believers talk about the Bible, God has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His church to help us. The Holy Spirit and the Bible provide illumination and the church provides confirmation (and/or rebuke). And we scale up and down as opportunities and wisdom dictates.)

Schedule (where we're going, Lord willing)



Week 1: pray; **week 2:** hear; **week 3:** think; **week 4:** talk; **today:** share

Overview of this series

The Bible gives us ideas on how to approach talking about the Bible. These include praying for help, hearing God's word, thinking about God's word, talking to others about God's word, and finally sharing God's word.

There's no single passage that walks us through all of these steps, but this series is about looking across the Scriptures to see what the Bible tells us about how to talk about the Bible—because if the Bible gives us all things for life and godliness, it will certainly tell us how to use the Bible.

And, since confidence comes from familiarity, we've practiced a lot in class.

Review: Process Step #1: Pray

Our attitudes

1. Fear (**Proverbs 9:10**)
2. Dependence (**2 Chronicles 20**)
3. Expectancy (**Psalm 119:18; James 1:5**)

Our actions

1. Pray for illumination (**1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:15-21**)
2. Pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**)
3. Pray for hearing for the hearers (**Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22**)



Our practice: pray before we talk

Let's practice process step #1. Take a moment and ensure we have an attitude of fear, dependence, and expectancy about John 18:1-11.

Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate this week's text (**John 18:1-11**), ask for wisdom, and pray for the hearing of the other believers in this room.



Review: Process Step #2: Hear

What it is not: hearing is not reading

What it is: hearing the Bible being read out loud

Our attitudes

1. Respect (**Nehemiah 8:1-8**)
2. Deference (**Nehemiah 8:9**)

Our actions

1. Read the Bible out loud to others (**1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Rev. 1:3**)
2. Hear the Bible being read aloud (**1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Timothy 4:13; Rev. 1:3**)



Our practice: hearing isn't reading and hear more often

Let's practice process step #2. Take a moment to consciously respect God's word and to position our hearts to defer to whatever it teaches in **John 18:1-11**.

I'll read **John 18:1-11** out loud, and you please listen.



Review: Process Step #3: Think

Why do we need to think about God's word? There is a childish way of thinking, God does think like me, and this takes focus and time (not hurry). **1 Corinthians 13:11; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 8:5**

Our attitudes

1. **Humility** (**Psalm 119:15, 27**)
2. **Wonder** (**Psalm 119:48; 92:5**)
3. **Steadfastness** (**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2**)

Our actions

1. **Think about God's word day and night** (**Psalm 63:6; 119:148**)
2. **Think up** (**Colossians 3:2**)

One caution: **Proverbs 23:7** & Hendricks & Hendricks quote about empty vs. filled.



Our practice: slow down and think

Let's practice process step #3. Take a moment to think in a humble way, a way that acknowledges wonder, and a way that steadfastly focuses on **John 18:1-11**.

For the next minute, just think about **John 18:1-11**. Now, let's move to step #4.



Review: Process Step #4: Talk

What it is not: talking to others about my opinions (this is me-focused)

What it is: talking with other believers (both alive and dead) to better understand God and His word (this is God-focused)

Our attitudes

1. **Incompleteness** (**Luke 2:52**)
2. **Teachableness** (**Acts 18:24-28**)

Our actions

1. **Talk to those willing to teach** (**Acts 28:24-28**)
2. **Use available resources** (**2 Timothy 4:13**) (and go back to them as needed)



Our practice: learn from others (i.e., we need we)

Let's practice process step #4. Take a moment to acknowledge incompleteness and approach **John 18:1-11** in a teachable way. Ask someone, "What did you observe?"

Process Step #5: Share

Our attitudes

1. **Lowliness** (Proverbs 15:1-2; John 3:30)

**1 A soft answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.**

**2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,
But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.** The wise use knowledge (including knowledge of Scripture) wisely—not for our own glory or reputation.

 **He must increase, but I must decrease.** John the Baptist went on a rant at the end of **John 3** and proclaimed that it was not about John, but about Jesus. **Bob Goff:** When we care more about what our faith looks like than what it is, it's time to take a walk around the block.

2. **Intention** (Proverbs 15:28; 26:4-5)

**The heart of the righteous studies how to answer,
But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.** “How” to answer, not “what.” We should know “what” to answer because Scripture tells us that plainly. But it takes wisdom to know “how” to answer. (It's easier when you know people well.)

**4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest you also be like him.**

**5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest he be wise in his own eyes.** We must discern when to engage.

3. **Calm** (Proverbs 17:27)

He who has knowledge spares his words,

 **And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.** **Dave Ramsey:** When you teach the truth expect people who believe a lie to be angry...sometimes very angry.

4. **Patience** (Proverbs 18:13; 26:17)

**He who answers a matter before he hears it,
It is folly and shame to him.**

 **Speedbumps picture:** we should slow down and listen—and perhaps delay.

 **President Johnson picture.** **17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.** Note that there will be people foolish enough to do this and that there will be those who stand around smiling at the fool doing it. Fools always have an audience.

Our actions

1. **Speak the truth in love** (Ephesians 4:11-16)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2. **Trust the Lord with the outcome** (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God is in charge of the outcomes, so let's trust Him and His word to do what He said He and His word will do.

BLT: love others and trust God

Our practice: John 18:1-11

Let's practice process step #5. Take a moment in a lowly, intentional, calm, and patient way to think about how to talk about **John 18:1-11**.

How could we speak the truth of this text in love, trusting God with the outcome?

Summary

This is the process I use to teach. I pray for help. I hear/read the text many times. I think about the text for days and days. I talk to a lot of other believers (some dead, some alive). And I finish by standing in front of you and letting God's word do what God says it will do. And since the age of 16—when I taught the Bible for the first time, He and His word have never let me down—and He never will. Because He and He alone is faithful and true.



Suggested resource

ESV Scripture Journal: Mark (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2016).

Homework (note that these steps are additive)

1. Pray for help in understanding **Mark**
2. Hear **Mark** multiple times
3. Think about **Mark** day and night
4. Talk with someone (dead or alive) about **Mark**
5. Share your insights with others about **Mark**
6. Invite a member and a non-member



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Let's move into our table prayer time.