

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.
Isaiah 50:4

Passage for the Month: Luke 15:1-32

Biblical Hermeneutics¹:

- Context:
 - When in Jesus' ministry does this passage take place?

 - Who is in the crowd? What's unique about each group of people?

 - What's unique about parables? How do these 3 parables work together?

Questions:

- Reflection:
 - What do you think the people in the crowds are thinking as Jesus tells the parables?

 - In the last parable, who do you relate more with at this moment? why?

 - What is something that stood out after reading it again this time?

 - Where's the Gospel in this passage?

- Response:
 - Teach this passage to another person (including your mentee if you have one)

 - How do you think our youth relate to this passage?

 - Why do you think students in schools and the community need this passage?

¹ the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially of the Bible or literary texts.

Resources:

- <http://breakawayministries.org/Resources/talks/Jesus-The-Lost-Boys>
- <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/by-series/this-man-receives-sinners-a-series-on-luke-15>
- Prodigal God by Tim Keller
- Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Luke): Darrell Bock
- New International Commentary on the New Testament (Luke): Joel B. Green

Theology for the Month (Bible)

Christian Beliefs² (Chapter 1) - Middle School

1. Do you agree with the first sentence of the chapter? Why? Why not?
2. In your own words summarize the following:
 - a. The Authority of the Bible
 - b. The Clarity of Scripture
 - c. The Necessity of Scripture
 - d. The Sufficiency of Scripture
3. What's the difference between "general revelation" and "special revelation"?
4. Memorize these two verses: 2 Timothy 3:16 & Psalm 119:1
5. Why is it important that the Bible be the basis for our beliefs?

² Wayne Grudem ed. Elliot Grudem *Christian Beliefs* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005)

6. Will the Bible definitely answer every question we bring to it? Why or why not?

Systematic Theology³ (Part 1) - High School and up

1. What is meant by the phrase “the Word of God”? (Name the 2 categories and 4 subcategories) (chapter 2)
2. Define “canon of scripture” (pg. 54)
3. What was the Apocrypha? (pg 56) When did the Roman Catholic Church official declare the Apocrypha to be part of the canon? (pg. 59) Why should we not regard the Apocrypha as part of Scripture? (pg. 59-60)
4. For a book to belong in the canon, what must it absolutely have? And what does that mean? (pg. 63)
5. What does the “authority of Scripture” mean? (pg. 73)
6. Study: Objection: This is a Circular Argument (pg. 78-80)
7. Define “biblical inerrancy” (pg. 91)
8. Be able to explain 1 current challenge to inerrancy (pg. 92-99)
9. Be able to explain 1 problem with denying inerrancy (pg. 99-100)
10. Why do people misunderstand scripture? (pg. 108-109)

³ Wayne Grudem *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondevan, 2000)

11. Define “necessity of Scripture” (pg. 116)

12. Explain 1 practical application of the sufficiency of Scripture (pg 131-135)