



Session 1: Introduction

JEN WILKIN

Welcome to How to Study the Bible: Hermeneutics 101! The goal of this course is to equip you and build your confidence in studying and teaching the Bible for yourself. If you've ever wondered how Bible study authors and teachers mine Scripture for the truth about God and applications for our lives today, you're in the right place.

In this first session, Jen Wilkin introduces the course, explaining why we should study the Bible. She gives definitions of terms, examples of some common principles of interpretation, and a few faulty assumptions as we dive into Scripture interpretation.

Key Terms:

Hermeneutics: A set of presuppositions, values, or beliefs which guide or control the interpretation of texts

Exegesis: The execution of studying the Bible

Eisegesis: The person studying the Bible brings his or her own principles to the text, assigning meaning that isn't there

Bible Literacy: Having a Bible in the language you read and growing in your understanding of it

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do we need to know how to study the Bible ourselves, especially in an age when we can access teaching and commentary from other scholars?
2. How do you currently approach the study of Scripture? What is your hermeneutic?
3. What assumptions about Bible study do you bring to this course?
4. Did anything that Jen said surprise you?

Key Takeaways:

- Our God is a God of order. Hermeneutics is an ordered approach to understanding what the Bible has to say.
- First and foremost, the Bible is a book about God. It is meant to disclose to us His nature and character.
- The Bible is for everyone.
- We are all in process as we study; no one has all of it figured out.

Summary:

We study the Bible to get to know God, His attributes, and His work. Hermeneutics is the process through which we study.

Resources Quoted and Recommended:

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vol. 1, ed. Henry Beveridge (Edinburgh: The Calvin Translation Society, 1845), 47.