

# Sample pages from Exploring the New Testament

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## Searching for a Bible passage?

This website might help!

[Bible Gateway](#)

## VTBS002 Exploring the New Testament GDL

Announcements

### Welcome



### Course Outline

This section contains important information. Please read it before you begin the course.

Files: 2 Pages: 2

Progress: 0 / 2

### Assessment Tasks and Learning Activities information

Pages: 6 Assignments: 2 Folder: 1 File: 1

Progress: 2 / 9

### Course Forum



PROVIDED BY:



Uniting Church in Australia  
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equipping Leadership for Mission

ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF

Mel Perkins - Administrator

Teacher

Teacher

### Course Contact

If you have any inquiries or require further assistance, please contact your Presbytery liaison person.

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7. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral - another tool for engaging with Scripture
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9. So what about you? What is your relationship with the New Testament?

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## Unit 1: Introduction to the New Testament and Interpreting the Scripture

### 2. What does the Bible mean to me?

#### "How well read is the Bible?" amongst those who own a copy?

It is true that a lot of people who own a Bible don't read it or don't read it often. But there are bigger questions than how often the Bible is read. A more important question is "What does the Bible mean to me?"

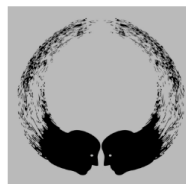
#### Learning Activity

Take some time to jot down your thoughts on the question - "What does the Bible mean to me?". Consider these further questions to assist your thinking:

- Both the Bible and Christ are described as "The Word of God". What does this mean for you?
- What would it mean to your faith if you never had access to a Bible again?
- What parts of the Bible have been very meaningful for you during your life, and why?
- What is the place of the Bible in the life of the church?
- Are there parts of the Bible that are a struggle for you, that are difficult to come to grips with?



### 3. Paul and conflict - the way to resolution



Conflict occurs in our lives, in the communities' life, in national and international life, and also in our church's life!

Paul became embroiled in conflict in Jerusalem (with James and Peter) and with a number of the churches that he commenced in his missionary journeys through Asia Minor and Greece. Conflict is not welcome and some see it as a sign of failure, particularly in the church.

#### Reflection

"How do you respond when conflict arises for you personally and in the church?"

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## Unit 3: Jesus - a life like no other



### 1. Preparing for the journey - read and reflect

**Optional Web search**

Bible Odyssey website has an interesting article on [Jesus](#) and other materials that you may find useful as a starting place.

**Reading**

**Preparing for the journey:** Firstly, read the **Gospel of Mark**. Many scholars believe it to be the first Gospel written of the four Gospels that were included in the New Testament. It is not very long and you can do it in one sitting if you set time aside. **Or** you could listen to it through Bible Gateway ([online](#) or download the app).



**Viewing**

**Alternatively,** you might like to hear the Gospel of Mark read aloud for you and/or watch a performance or recital.

**Reading**

and

**Reflection**

Now set time aside to read the book of **Acts**. If you wish to view a dramatised video or hear a reading of Acts you might like to use a search engine such as Google to locate a version of this book, or use one of the versions of Bible Gateway. It may be good to hear/see this in a different version to the one you normally use.

In your reading/listening pay attention to the work of the Holy Spirit and how it is portrayed - Acts is sometimes said to be the "Acts of the Holy Spirit".

Note the story of the ascension of Jesus.

Note the coming of the Holy Spirit and how the telling of the story of this in Acts is different to the telling in the Gospel of John.

Reflect on where the story begins and the theme of expansion beyond Jerusalem 'to the ends of the earth'.

Consider the key apostolic characters Peter (his growth), James and Paul (his 3 conversion accounts) and how the story moves between all three.

Note the debates on how the early church worked through the issues around the inclusion of Gentiles.



**Reflection**



When you have finished reading **pray and meditate** on the key images, stories or words that have drawn your attention.

What encourages you about this book?

What messages are there for churches today?

Which person or persons have made an impression on you? Why? What is there about this person that attracts you to them?

## Unit 10: Interpreting Revelation

### 3. Imagery in our worship and Christian art



Imagery from Revelation is powerfully used in our worship, particularly in music, and also in Christian art.

**Web search**

Search on YouTube for the song "*Revelation Song*" by Phillips, Craig and Dean. Find a version that has the lyrics.

Play the song and listen to and note the words, many of which come from Revelation.

Why do you think writers use these words and images?

What are they trying to say to us about God?

What other songs used in worship in your faith community contain similar types of words and images?