

1. Presuppositions

- a) Luke 24:36-45 What hindered the disciples from seeing the true meaning of the passages in the Hebrew Scriptures referring to the Messiah?
- b) Our presuppositions can cloud our thinking. For example, if a person rejects the possibility of any supernatural invention, what portions of Scripture would be set aside as unreasonable?
- c) What are some other presuppositions that are common today when people read the Bible?
- d) What promises in the Bible give us hope that we can go beyond any faulty presuppositions and receive a clear word from God? John 16:13, Psalm 32:8, etc.

2. Translation as interpretation

- a) What languages were used in the original texts of the Bible?
- b) Since most of us do not read ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, or Koine Greek, how can we be sure we have a reliable translation of the text?
- c) Psalm 131:1-2 (different translations) Why is the translation different? How can we be certain which translation is correct?
- d) What Bible translations have you found helpful in your study of the Bible?

3. The Bible and Culture

- a) Acts 17:16-32 What is the cultural context here?

- b) Ephesians 6:5-9 Why is it important to understand the cultural context in which the Scriptures were written? (in contrast see Philemon 10-16)
- c) How can we better understand biblical times and culture?
- d) What universal principles of truth transcend all cultures?

4. Our fallen and sinful nature

- a) John 12:42-43 What hindered many religious leaders during the earthly ministry of Jesus from accepting the truths He taught and lived?
- b) Psalm 32:8-9 What appeal does the LORD make through the Psalmist David?
- c) How is it possible for sinful humans to receive the Word of God with an open and receptive heart?

5. Why interpretation is important (hermeneutics)

- a) 2 Peter 3:15-16
- b) Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8
- c) John 1:41, 9:7
- d) Luke 24:27
- e) Who has helped you understand the Bible?
- f) Consider Revelation 12:7-12. What interpretation is needed to understand this passage?

