



How We Think About (And Plan) Teaching

The Scripture is breathed by God for us (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and the Word is central in our teaching and ministry as a church. It must be, because God uses His Word to bring salvation and sanctification (James 1:18; Hebrews 4:12). There are three common approaches to teaching the Scripture.

LIFE:

An approach that begins with questions, challenges, hopes, or struggles in life and brings the Scripture's teaching to bear on them. Examples include Jesus' teaching on marriage in response to questions, and Jesus teaching the woman at the well in the midst of her shame (Matthew 19, John 4).

TEXT:

An approach that begins with the text and walks people through it, including central themes and purposes of the biblical book, believing God's Spirit will apply God's Word to God's people. For example, the apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to "preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:2).

THEOLOGY:

An approach that engages people with doctrines of the Christian faith in light of the grand story of God—the gospel. For example, Jesus explained to two disciples on the road to Emmaus how all of Scripture points to Him (Luke 24).

An approach is not about *exclusivity*, but *emphasis*—meaning that each message should be practical (life), bring people to God's Word (text), and remind people of God's great plan in the gospel (theology).

We think about and plan our teaching through the lens of a "balanced diet or approach," thus we utilize all three approaches each year. Some of our teaching series are framed around life issues, some walk through books of the Bible, and some are designed to engage people with theology.