

Best for

Those seeking a method that allows everyone to read God's Word and hear God speak.

Concept

Imagine a Bible Study method that is accessible to everyone – whether or not they had read the Bible before; a way to read and study the Bible together that allows everyone to take part, discover for themselves what God's Word says, and hear God speak.

The manuscript method is an incredibly simple and effective way to study the Bible. Using a Bible passage printed out on paper, the passage is read and observations marked with coloured pens. The aim is to read the Bible for ourselves and hear God speak through His Word. Manuscript does not assume Bible knowledge but instead gives everyone an opportunity to read the Bible and share and apply what they have learned.

Features

- A great way to engage with any Bible text.
- Easily learned and suitable for any Bible passage.
- Repeated reading reveals the detail and content of what God is saying.

Method

Preparation

- Select a passage. Remove chapter headings, verse numbers and paragraph breaks.
- Print a copy of the passage manuscript for everyone taking part.
- Provide coloured pens that folk can use to mark their manuscript.

Study

- Pray to begin, that God would speak through His Word, and that everyone would hear.
- Read the text aloud together.
- Mark sections – where you think the author might make a new paragraph break. Try to summarise in a few words what each section is about. Have a go at summarising what the entire passage is about. Do this individually, then feedback to the group.
- Think about the six big questions in the passage: who, what, where, when, how and why. Using the coloured pens, underline, circle, or put a box around key phrases, themes or words that repeat. Draw lines between phrases, themes and words that are related. Do this individually, then discuss one-to-one or as a whole group what you have observed.
- As a group, discuss the why of the passage – what is the author trying to say, what does this mean? Identify the key message(s).
- Individual, in one-to-one's, or as a whole group, discuss how to apply this passage: what is God saying through it, and how should we respond to what God is saying?
- Close in prayer, asking that God would continue to speak through His Word, and that hearing, we would delight to respond.