

# Listening Guide

---

## **I. Introduction**

## **II. New Testament as Scripture**

**[1]** How does Scripture view itself?

**[2]** Dr. Wenig goes on in this section to explain the “So What” that Scripture is God’s message to us. His point is that God, by His own grace communicates to us. Both Old and New Testaments point out that God speaks to us because He cares about us. As you read the Bible with this fact in mind, state at least one way that fact could or should influence how you read it.

### **A. Grace Explained**

**[3]** What is the “essence of grace?”

**[4]** Grace is a free gift from God, but how must we accept it?

## **B. God-inspired**

[5] What is the theological idea of inspiration?

[6] What two Bible passages actually claim that the Bible is a Word from God?

## **III. Understanding the New Testament**

[7] What is the primary goal of this lesson?

[8] Should we read Bible before or after we read commentaries on a passage? Why use study tools in addition to reading the Bible?

## **A. Hermeneutics**

[9] What did Wenig say about correct reading of the Bible?

[10] What does “Hermeneutics” attempt to do?

[11] What does hermeneutics provide to help us read correctly?

[12] What does a proper use of hermeneutics help us avoid?

[13] State Fee and Stuart’s statement about a text’s meaning in your own words.

## **B. Exegesis**

[14] What does the Greek word which we translate as “exegesis” basically mean?

[15] What is the goal of exegesis?

### C. Relationship of Hermeneutics to Exegesis

Walter Kaiser summarized the relationship between these two essential activities, but it is a difficult explanation to understand. So I will quote a passage from Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart's, How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth because it is a clear explanation of the relationship between exegesis and hermeneutics.

“Reading the Bible with an eye only to its meaning for us can lead to a great deal of non-sense as well as to every imaginable kind of error – because it lacks controls. Fortunately, most believers are blessed with at least a measure of that most important of all hermeneutical skills – common sense.

On the other hand, nothing can be so dry and lifeless for the church as making biblical study purely an academic exercise in historical investigation. Even though the Word was originally given in a concrete historical context, its uniqueness is that the historically given and conditioned Word is ever a living word.

Our concern, therefore, must be with both dimensions. The believing scholar insists that the biblical texts first of all mean what they meant. That is, we believe that God's Word for us today is, first of all, precisely what His Word was to them. Thus we have two tasks: First, find out what the text originally meant; this task is called exegesis. Second, we must learn to hear that same meaning in the variety of new or different contexts of our own day; we call this second task hermeneutics. (page 13).

[16] So, in a sentence, state the difference between exegesis and hermeneutics.

### IV. Biblical Interpretation

[17] What greatly enhances an interpreter's success in grasping an author's verbal meaning?

[18] How do we decide what a word with several meanings actually means in a sentence we are reading?

[19] How certain can we be that our interpretation of a biblical text is correct?

[20] What is the “Hermeneutical Circle?”

[21] What is the indispensable activity in correct interpretation?

## **V. Critical Methodologies**

**A. Textual Criticism**

**B. Source Criticism**

**C. Form Criticism**

**D. Redaction Criticism**

**E. Historical Criticism**

**F. Canonical Criticism**

## **VI. Conclusion: Analysis and Synthesis**

[22] List and define the two stages of the exegetical task.

a.

b.

## Reflection

[23] Write one fact or insight you gained from this lesson.

## Application

Review Section II. B. “God Inspired”. As you consider the amazing fact that the Bible you read is actually inspired by God Himself,

1. How does (or should) that influence the way you Read it?
2. How does (or should) that influence the way you Respond to its teaching?
3. How does (or should) that influence the way you Teach it or use in in conversation?