



David

Psalmist, King, Warrior

“The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart ... more to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.”

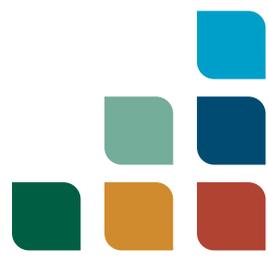


Dave

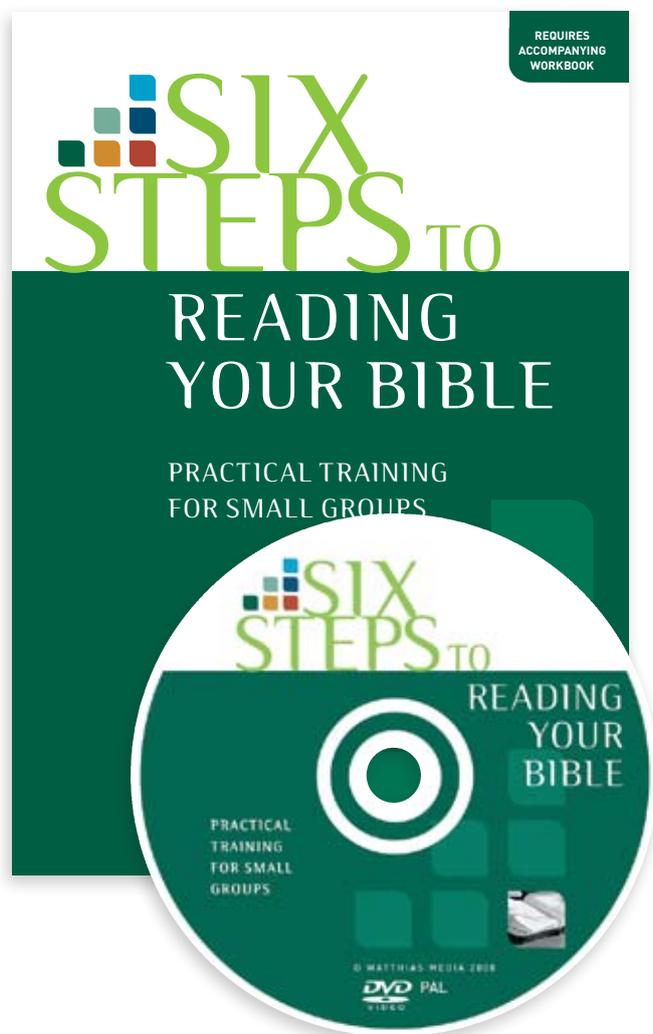
Accountant, Husband, Father

“I’m tired. I know I should read the Bible, but I just don’t feel much like it. I don’t know where to start. Besides, so much of what I read is hard for me to understand and harder to apply. What’s with all those strange OT laws, anyway?”

Discover the joy of feeding
regularly and richly on
God’s life-giving Word ...



Six Steps to Reading Your Bible



Instead of regarding the Bible as “more to be *desired* than gold” and “rejoicing the heart”, like David in the Psalms, somehow, for many of us, regularly reading God’s Word ends up in the same category as regular exercise: a healthy chore we know we should fit in and that we benefit from, but which is hard to manage amongst everything else, and ends up slipping off the agenda. As the Lord Jesus said of his sleepy disciples: “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”.

Whatever your current Bible reading habits (or lack of them), and whatever your level of knowledge and confidence, *Six Steps to Reading Your Bible* will help you make progress in getting into your Bible. The course is especially designed for use in small groups, and utilizes a mix of video instruction, fun skits, Bible study, discussion, practical exercises, prayer and home assignments that will help you on the road to establishing a new and more enjoyable Bible reading habit.

Six steps to Reading Your Bible is a course best undertaken in a small group (of 3-8 people). To run the course you will need a workbook for each person, which also contains notes for group leaders, plus a DVD to use in the group.

Step 1

What is the Bible?

In the first session of the course you will look at some basic information about the Bible. For example, that it is a ‘bookshelf’ of 66 books, written by a range of different authors in a variety of styles or genres. But that it is nevertheless ‘the one word of the one God about the one way of salvation’.

Step 2

Why read the Bible?

The Bible answers our important questions about life and meaning like no other book can, because it comes from the mouth of God himself. The harder question is why we don’t read the Bible. This session reminds us of our struggle with sin, but also provides practical tips on how to establish a good Bible reading habit.

Step 3

Reading in faith

This session looks at the response the Bible expects and what impact it should have on us. The basic pattern of all Bible reading should be ‘Pray—Read—Respond’. In the rest of this course, we learn a basic 4-step method of ‘reading’ a text: COMA (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application). This session explains the importance of ‘Context’.

Step 4

Reading what’s there

In this session you’ll learn some detective skills—important ‘observation’ techniques as part of our ‘COMA’ reading method. You’ll also learn how to avoid some common pitfalls and traps.

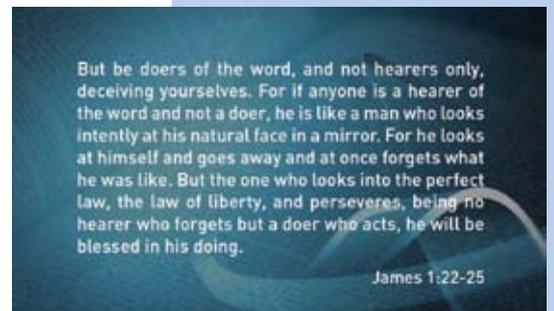
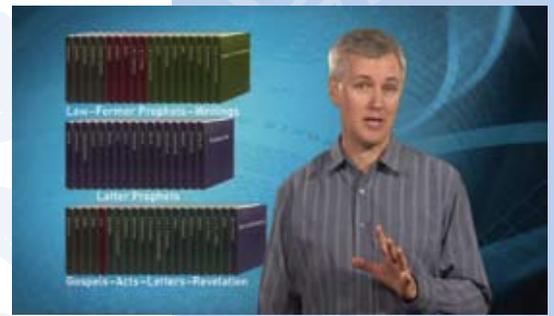
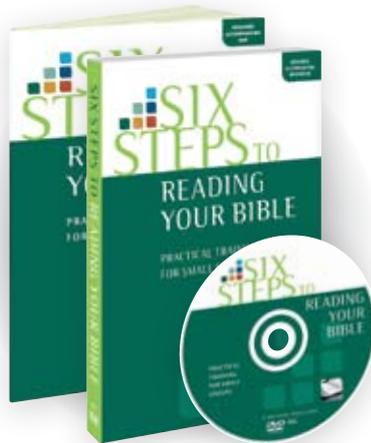
Who can benefit?

Six Steps to Reading Your Bible is an ideal course for three groups of people:

- (1) People who are new to the Christian faith. It will give them a very valuable introduction to the place of the Bible in the Christian life, and a set of basic tools for getting started in reading it.
- (2) Those who have been Christians a while, but who have never had much training in simple but important Bible study principles.
- (3) Experienced Bible readers, who will find *Six Steps to Reading Your Bible* a valuable 'refresher' course, and will gain a healthy new vigour in their personal Bible reading.

Over the six sessions of the course, you will:

- ✓ become familiar with the basic shape and nature of the Bible
- ✓ be motivated to read the Bible for yourself
- ✓ learn how to apply basic reading skills to the Bible
- ✓ learn how to apply a Bible passage to your life
- ✓ understand how the whole message of the Bible hangs together and centres on Jesus
- ✓ benefit from the encouragement and experience of others, as you work together in learning to read the Bible
- ✓ be well on the way to establishing a new habit of regular Bible reading



Step 5

Reading through Jesus

What does the unity of the Bible—the fact that it is the one word of the one God about the one way of salvation—mean for how we read it, particularly the Old Testament? You'll hear about two particular ways the Old Testament relates to the New. In this session you'll also learn more about the step of exploring the 'meaning' of a passage.

Step 6

Reading for life

In this final session you'll learn how to apply a passage of Scripture (the fourth step in the COMA method). You will be given six important principles to remember in this process. And finally, you will be encouraged to continue a lifetime of responding as not just readers of the word, but as 'doers of the word' (James 1:22-25).

Home assignments

Home assignments not only help you start using the principles being learnt, but get you started on a regular reading habit. As the course explains, it takes 6-8 weeks for such a habit to really take hold, so if you can establish a routine of doing these home assignments, by the end of six weeks you'll be well on the way to the joyful blessing of having Bible reading more entrenched in your daily life.

About the authors

TONY PAYNE is the Publishing Director of Matthias Media, and author of many popular books and resources, including *Guidance and the Voice of God* (with Phillip Jensen). Tony is the DVD presenter.

SIMON ROBERTS is the co-author of the multimedia training courses *Six Steps to Talking About Jesus*, *Six Steps to Encouragement* and *So Many Questions*. He is employed by a church in Sydney where he runs their School of Ministry, which builds and equips congregation members for the work of service.

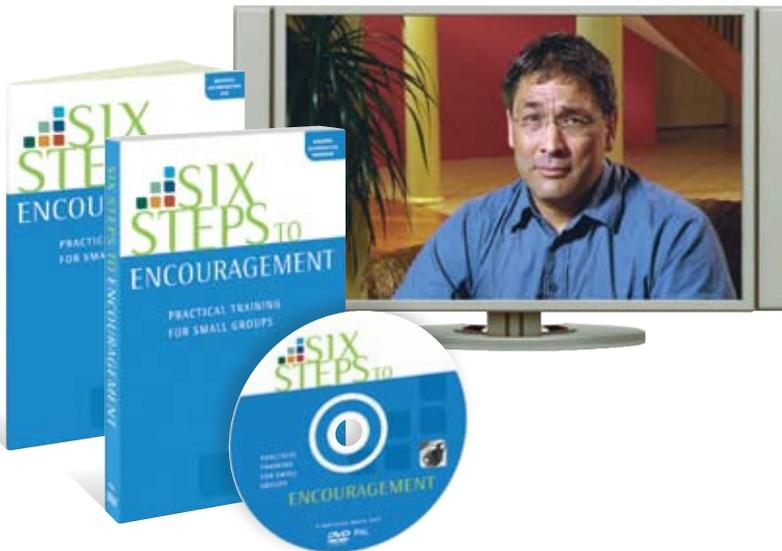


About the Six Steps series

The Six Steps series is designed to provide practical training in important aspects of Christian life and ministry. It does so in a format ideally suited to small home groups, and the DVD input not only provides stimulating content, but also eliminates the need for the small group leader to be an 'expert teacher' on the topic at hand. The three courses in the Six Steps range are all thoroughly biblical, yet excitingly practical.

Other 'Six Steps' courses available from Matthias Media

Six Steps to Encouragement



About the presenter

GORDON CHENG currently works full-time for Matthias Media as a Resources Editor. He is a graduate of Moore Theological College, and has many years of both student and local church ministry experience. He is a regular writer for *The Briefing* magazine, and has also written several Bible study guides.

Six Steps to Encouragement is a basic and foundational training course for all Christians.

It is built upon the simple, but profound, principle that: "God's word changes us; through us, it can change others too."

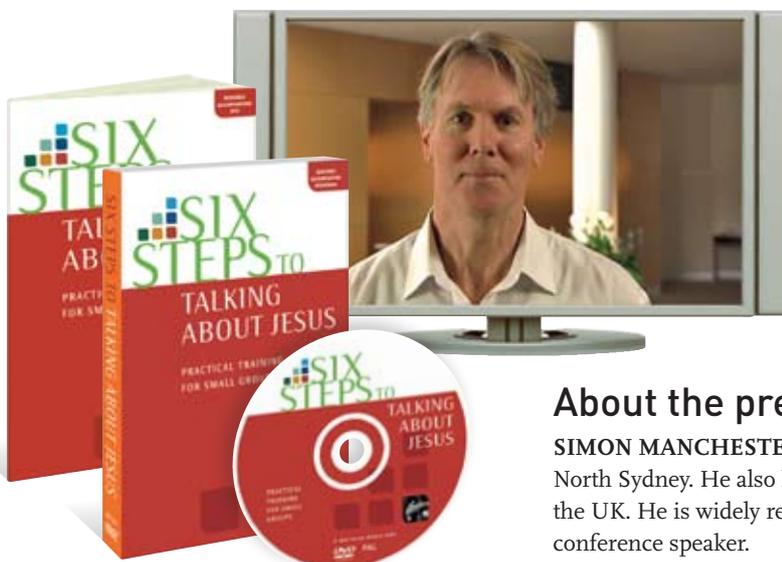
It's about how to do the basic ministry that God has given all of us—to encourage other people, to speak God's truth to them in love. Every Christian can be a channel of encouragement to help change the lives of those around them through speaking God's Word to them—whether in a handwritten note, a casual conversation, or a thousand other ways.

In *Six Steps to Encouragement*, participants learn the why and how of personal encouragement through video input, Bible study, practical examples, discussions and hands-on exercises. The six steps of the course can be done over six weeks, or in three longer sessions (of two steps each).

The six steps are:

1. God the speaker
2. God's Word changes us and others
3. God's fellow workers
4. What to say
5. How to say it
6. The place of prayer

Six Steps to Talking About Jesus



We all want our friends to know Jesus, but we often feel uneasy, inadequate or unsure what to say.

This short training course provides biblical knowledge and practical skills to help us get started.

In doing the course, you will explore key topics like:

- the core motivation for reaching out to others;
- how to depend on God in prayer;
- how to invite friends to read a book or come to an event;
- how to tell your own story of what God has done for you; and
- how to explain the gospel in a simple way.

About the presenter

SIMON MANCHESTER is the Senior Minister at St Thomas' Church in North Sydney. He also has ministry experience in other parts of Sydney and in the UK. He is widely regarded as an outstanding evangelist and is a frequent conference speaker.