

Biblical Hermeneutics 101 — Teaching Pack

Contents included in this document (ready for copying into PowerPoint/Google Slides, printing, or distributing):

1. Slide deck (20 slides) with speaker notes and suggested timings — ready to paste into PowerPoint/Google Slides.
 2. Facilitator lesson plan (expanded from 90-minute outline) — step-by-step script, prompts, expected answers, timing and classroom management tips.
 3. Exercise pack — printable worksheets for Context Drill, Genre Exercise, Language/Word Study, Scripture-Interprets-Scripture reconciliation, and Lectio Divina guide. Includes small-group prompts and materials list.
 4. Answer key for exercises and suggested facilitator responses.
 5. Short assessment — 10-question quiz with answer key and scoring guidance.
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1) Slide Deck — "Biblical Hermeneutics 101"

Total slides: 20 | Total workshop time: 90 minutes

Usage: Copy each slide title and main bullets into your chosen slide software. Speaker notes are in italics beneath each slide. Aim: clean, minimal slides (title + 3–6 bullets) and use the notes for the teaching script.

Slide 1 — Title Slide

Title: Biblical Hermeneutics 101 **Subtitle:** Time-tested principles & practical exercises for beginners **Footer:** [Your name / organization] • 90-minute workshop

Speaker notes: Welcome participants briefly, state the goal: to learn 5 core hermeneutical principles and practice them. Invite brief introductions later in ground rules.

Slide 2 — Workshop Outcomes

- Understand 5 core hermeneutical principles
- Apply basic historical and literary tools to a passage
- Practice devotional reading (Lectio Divina)
- Reconcile apparent tensions using Scripture

Speaker notes: Read outcomes. Emphasize both head (skills) and heart (devotion).

Slide 3 — What is Hermeneutics?

- The art & science of interpreting Scripture
- Bridges ancient context and modern life
- Mixes rules (methods) and wisdom (spiritual discernment)

Speaker notes: Define terms simply. Mention why helpful: prevents misreading and misapplication.

Slide 4 — Five Core Principles (overview)

- Context
- Genre
- Original language
- Authorial intent
- Scripture interprets Scripture

Speaker notes: Quick one-line definition for each; explain we will unpack each one.

Slide 5 — Principle 1: Context

- Verse → paragraph → chapter → book → canon
- Know speaker, audience, occasion
- Avoid proof-texting

Speaker notes: Give quick example: Philippians 4:13 — understand the paragraph around it.

Slide 6 — Principle 2: Genre

- Identify type: narrative, law, wisdom, prophecy, gospel, epistle, poetry, apocalyptic
- Each genre has different rules for meaning
- Treat metaphors and symbols carefully

Speaker notes: Show how Psalm (poetry) differs from an epistle.

Slide 7 — Principle 3: Original Language & Vocabulary

- Hebrew / Aramaic / Greek shades of meaning
- Use lexicons/translations to check nuance
- Beware idioms & culturally loaded words

Speaker notes: Offer quick example: *agape* vs modern "love." Recommend interlinears and multiple translations.

Slide 8 — Principle 4: Authorial Intent

- Who wrote? To whom? Why?
- What problem/purpose did the text address?
- Anchor interpretations in author's likely purpose

Speaker notes: Explain historical questions help avoid anachronisms.

Slide 9 — Principle 5: Scripture Interprets Scripture

- Use clear passages to explain harder ones
- The whole Bible is a unified witness
- Avoid isolated proof-texting

Speaker notes: Use James/Paul example: apparent tension resolved by context and teaching purpose.

Slide 10 — Quick Methods Snapshot

- Historical-critical: background & sources
- Literary-grammatical: grammar & structure
- Inductive: observe → interpret → apply

Speaker notes: Give a single-sentence on when to use each.

Slide 11 — Practical Tip: Reading Sequence

1. Observe (what does it say?)
2. Interpret (what did it mean then?)
3. Apply (what does it mean now?)

Speaker notes: Encourage students to practice this sequence for every study.

Slide 12 — Exercise 1: Context Drill (instructions)

- Read Philippians 4:10-13 (handout)
- Small groups: list 3 contextual facts + 1 implication for verse 13
- 10 minutes

Speaker notes: Assign groups, clarify time, circulate.

Slide 13 — Group Reports: Context Drill

- 1-2 quick group highlights (facilitator writes on board)

Speaker notes: Pull 3 quick responses; correct misconceptions gently.

Slide 14 — Exercise 2: Genre & Scripture → Scripture (instructions)

- Group A: James 2:14–26
- Group B: Ephesians 2:8–10
- Identify: genre, author intent; reconcile differences
- 15 minutes

Speaker notes: Encourage cross-group sharing afterward.

Slide 15 — Devotional Practice: Lectio Divina (instructions)

- Read Psalm 23 slowly
- Lectio → Meditatio → Oratio → Contemplatio
- 10 minutes silent/prayer

Speaker notes: Guide through each step slowly; play quiet instrumental music if available.

Slide 16 — Applying Hermeneutics to Modern Questions

- Ask: What was original purpose? What is the timeless principle?
- Use theology and community wisdom
- Maintain humility & charity in disagreement

Speaker notes: Give brief example: Old Testament laws and modern ethics.

Slide 17 — Common Pitfalls

- Proof-texting
- Decontextualizing
- Ignoring genre
- Ignoring tradition/community

Speaker notes: Offer short antidotes for each pitfall.

Slide 18 — Home Practice

- Pick 1 verse for context analysis
- Pick 1 psalm for Lectio Divina
- Pick 1 epistle passage and write authorial-intent notes

Speaker notes: Encourage accountability — share in next meeting or email one takeaway.

Slide 19 — Short Quiz (10 q) — take-home or in-class

- Note: Provide physical copy or display on slide

Speaker notes: Explain scoring and purpose (formative assessment).

Slide 20 — Closing & Resources

- Recommended resources: a good study Bible, a basic lexicon, an introductory hermeneutics book, trusted commentaries
- Thanks, Q&A, sign-up sheet for follow-up course

Speaker notes: Thank participants, invite questions, mention next steps/contact information.

2) Facilitator Lesson Plan — Expanded (90-minute session)

Audience: Beginner learners / church small group / adult education class **Room & Materials:** projector + screen, printed handouts (Context Drill, Genre Exercise, Worksheets), Bibles, pens, flipchart markers, timer, optional background music for Lectio Divina. **Learning Objectives (repeat for learners):** 1. Explain five core hermeneutical principles. 2. Use context and genre to interpret passages accurately. 3. Practice lectio divina. 4. Reconcile apparent tensions using cross-scriptural reading.

Timing overview

- Welcome / Opening (10 min)
- Mini-lecture (15 min)
- Exercise 1: Context Drill (15 min)
- Exercise 2: Genre & Scripture-Interprets-Scripture (20 min)
- Devotional Lectio Divina (15 min)
- Wrap-up, quiz instructions, Q&A (15 min)

Detailed script & prompts (word-for-word where helpful):

Welcome & Opening (0–10 min)

- **Facilitator script:** "Welcome — I'm [name]. Today we'll learn practical tools to interpret Scripture carefully and prayerfully. We'll do short lectures, small-group work, and a devotional practice. Before we start, let's go around quickly: your name and one expectation in 15 seconds."
 - **Ground rules:** Be curious, be charitable, speak for yourself, be time-aware.
 - **Prayer (optional):** "Lord, open our minds and hearts as we study your Word. Guide our reading and give us humility. Amen."
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Mini-lecture — What & Why (10–25 min)

- **Facilitator script (concise):** "Hermeneutics helps us avoid four common mistakes: proof-texting, decontextualizing, ignoring genre, and letting modern biases drive interpretation. We'll focus on five principles: Context, Genre, Original Language, Authorial Intent, Scripture interprets Scripture."

Explain each principle (2–3 min each) - *Context (2–3 min)*: read Philippians 4:10–13 aloud. "Notice how verse 13 sits inside a paragraph about contentment. If we ignore that, we treat verse 13 as a promotional slogan rather than pastoral counsel." - *Genre (2–3 min)*: show Psalm vs. Epistle differences. Ask: "If you read Psalm 23 as a legal code, what problems would that cause?" - *Original language (2 min)*: show one word example (*agape*). Offer translation tip: compare two translations. - *Authorial intent (2–3 min)*: ask: "Who is Paul writing to in Philippi? What problem might he be addressing?" - *Scripture interprets Scripture (2–3 min)*: quickly mention James/Ephesians tension.

Transition: "We'll practice these now in two exercises. Keep your Bibles and a pen ready."

Exercise 1 — Context Drill (25–40 min)

Setup & timing: (15 minutes group work + 5 minutes reports) - **Handout:** Philippians 4:10–13 printed on page. - **Task prompt (verbatim to groups):** "Read Philippians 4:10–13 and the surrounding paragraph. In your group, list 3 facts about the context (speaker, audience, situation, prior events) and write one sentence on how those facts change how we might use verse 13. You have 12 minutes." - **Facilitator actions:** circulate, listen, prompt deeper thinking: "What happened to Paul before? In what tone is he writing? Is he addressing doctrine or pastoral encouragement?" - **Group reports (5 minutes):** ask 2 groups to share one key contextual fact and the implication. Capture highlights on flipchart.

Expected answers & key teaching points: - *Context facts:* Paul is the speaker; he writes from hardship / prison; he is addressing the Philippian church with gratitude; the paragraph discusses contentment. - *Implication:* Phil 4:13 is about Christ-strength for endurance, not a general guarantee for personal achievements.

Quick correction script if needed: "That's a great point — remember to let the paragraph speak for itself before generalizing."

Exercise 2 — Genre & Scripture-Interprets-Scripture (40–60 min)

Setup & timing: (15 minutes group work + 5–7 minutes cross-share + 3–5 minutes reconciliation) - **Groups:** Split into Group A (James 2:14–26) and Group B (Ephesians 2:8–10). Print both passages. - **Task prompt (verbatim):** "Group A: read James 2:14–26. Identify the genre, the primary concern James addresses, and summarize in one sentence what James means by 'works'. Group B: read Ephesians 2:8–10 and do the same for Paul. Then swap summaries with another group and reconcile the two passages: do they contradict? Why or why not? You have 15 minutes." - **Facilitator actions:** encourage groups to note audience and tone. Challenge them: "If you had to explain this to a friend who thinks faith alone means no moral responsibility, what would you say?"

Expected answers & facilitator reconciliation script: - *James*: genre—letter/ethical exhortation; audience—Jewish/Christian communities; concern—dead faith; ‘works’ are the visible actions that show faith is alive. - *Ephesians/Paul*: genre—epistle/theological explanation; audience—Gentile & Jewish Christians in Ephesus; concern—salvation is not merited by human deeds; faith is the vehicle of grace. - *Reconciliation*: Paul addresses how one is declared righteous before God (justification by faith), while James addresses how a living faith naturally produces works. Together: genuine faith results in works; faith absent of works is a hollow profession.

Teaching line to close exercise: "Different authors addressing different pastoral problems can lead to apparent tensions. Our job is to see the complementary message: salvation by grace through faith produces a transformed life."

Devotional Practice — Lectio Divina (60–75 min)

Setup & timing: 15 minutes guided - **Passage:** Psalm 23 (or Psalm 1) - **Steps on flipchart:** Lectio → Meditatio → Oratio → Contemplatio - **Guided script (verbatim):** 1. "Read the Psalm slowly aloud once." 2. "Read it again quietly; note one phrase that draws your attention. Write it down." 3. "Spend 3 minutes reflecting on that phrase—what in your life does it touch?" (Meditatio) 4. "Turn that reflection into a short prayer (Oratio)." (2 minutes) 5. "Sit in silence for a minute; listen (Contemplatio)." - **Facilitator tip:** use soft instrumental music, invite volunteers to share one insight after the silence.

Expected tone & boundaries: - Keep sharing voluntary and brief. Encourage spiritual sensitivity and respect for diverse traditions.

Wrap-up, Quiz, Q&A (75–90 min)

- **Wrap script (verbatim):** "Quick recap: name the five principles." (Invite responses.)
- **Quiz instructions:** "You can take a short 10-question quiz now (5–10 minutes) or take it home. This is formative not punitive."
- **Closing prayer / Q&A:** 5–10 minutes for questions & resources.

After-class follow-up email template (short):

Subject: Thanks — Hermeneutics 101 Follow-up

Hi everyone — thanks for joining Hermeneutics 101. Attached are the handouts, exercises, and the slide deck. If you'd like to meet for a deeper follow-up, reply to this email. Blessings,
[name]

3) Exercise Pack (Printable worksheets)

Materials to print for each participant / group: - Worksheet A: Context Drill (Phil 4:10–13 + questions) - Worksheet B: Genre & Reconciliation (James 2:14–26 & Eph 2:8–10 + prompts) - Worksheet C: Language/

Word Study (choose one word; look up translations & 3 meanings) - Worksheet D: Scripture-Interprets-Scripture (given a puzzling verse, find 2 supporting passages) - Worksheet E: Lectio Divina guide (Psalm 23 + steps & reflection space)

Worksheet A — Context Drill (layout)

Read Philippians 4:8–14 (printed here) Questions: 1. Who is the speaker? 2. Where is the speaker when he writes? (evidence) 3. What is the main pastoral issue in this paragraph? 4. Rewrite Philippians 4:13 in one sentence based on the paragraph's theme. 5. How might a person mistakenly use Phil 4:13 if they ignore context?

Worksheet B — Genre & Reconciliation (layout)

Group A: James 2:14–26 (printed) Group B: Ephesians 2:8–10 (printed) Prompts: 1. What is the genre? (short explanation) 2. Who is the primary audience and likely situation? 3. What problem is the author addressing? 4. What does the passage teach about faith and works? 5. After swapping summaries with another group: Write a one-paragraph reconciliation.

Worksheet C — Language/Word Study (layout)

- Passage (facilitator selects verse with a significant word)
- Word to study: _
- Find 3 English translations/phrases for this word in two translations and note differences.
- Where else in Scripture does this word appear? List references (3 max).
- How does the original-language nuance change your understanding of the verse?

Worksheet D — Scripture-Interprets-Scripture

- Passage (challenging verse printed)
- Task: Find 2 other passages that illuminate this verse. Write short notes on how each clarifies meaning.

Worksheet E — Lectio Divina (layout)

- Psalm printed
- Steps with lines for notes: Lectio (phrase), Meditatio (notes), Oratio (short prayer), Contemplatio (what you sensed)

4) Answer Key & Facilitator Notes (for exercises)

Worksheet A — Suggested answers

1. *Speaker*: Paul.
2. *Location / evidence*: writing while in hardship / imprisonment; mentions learning contentment in varying circumstances (Phil 4:11–12).
3. *Pastoral issue*: how to be content; encouragement in suffering.
4. *Rewrite of v.13*: "Because Christ strengthens me, I can endure any circumstance with contentment."

5. *Mistaken use*: Treating verse 13 as a universal guarantee for success or achievement rather than a promise of Christ's enabling in hardship.

Worksheet B — Suggested answers

- *James (A)*: genre—epistolary/ethical exhortation; audience—Jewish-Christian groups; problem—dead faith / hypocrisy; works—visible evidence of living faith.
- *Ephesians (B)*: genre—epistle; audience—Ephesus church; problem—defense against legalistic righteousness; emphasis—salvation by grace through faith, not earned by deeds.
- *Reconciliation (model paragraph)*: Paul emphasizes the means of justification (faith, not works), while James emphasizes the evidence of justification (works as fruit of genuine faith). There is no contradiction—both teach different sides of a single truth: true faith results in transformed behavior.

Worksheet C — Language study (example answer)

- *Word*: "mercy" (Hebrew: *chesed*) — translations: lovingkindness, steadfast love, loyal covenant love.
- *Other passages*: Psalm 136 uses "steadfast love" repeatedly.
- *Impact*: Recognizing *chesed* as covenant-loyalty deepens the verse from an emotional feeling to a promise grounded in God's covenant faithfulness.

Worksheet D — Scripture-Interprets-Scripture (example)

- *Challenging verse*: Jesus' teaching on divorce (Matt 19:9).
- *Support passages*: Deut 24:1–4 (Mosaic concession), Mark 10:2–12 (Jesus' fuller teaching), Matthew 5:32 (exception clause).
- *Clarification*: Historical concession vs ideal ethic; look across passages to see the consistent ethic and pastoral allowances.

Worksheet E — Lectio Divina (facilitator note)

- Expect varied personal responses; do not correct emotions. Encourage participants to link reflection to Scripture and to avoid over-systematizing subjective impressions.

5) Short Assessment — 10-question Quiz

Purpose: Formative check of core concepts. Recommend 10 minutes in-class or assigned as take-home.

Scoring: 1 point per question; total 10 points. Suggested passing score: 7/10 (70%). Use for feedback, not punishment.

Quiz (questions): 1. Define "hermeneutics" in one sentence. (Short answer) 2. Why is context important when interpreting a verse? (Short answer) 3. List three common biblical genres. (List) 4. True or False: A proverb is usually written to be taken as a literal promise for every situation. (T/F) 5. What does "Scripture interprets Scripture" mean? (Short answer) 6. Give one example of how knowing the original language helps interpretation. (Short answer) 7. Multiple choice: Which of the following is NOT a feature of literary-grammatical analysis? A) Studying word order and syntax B) Examining cultural background in depth C) Identifying literary devices D) Parsing verb tense and mood 8. Short answer: In one sentence, reconcile James 2:24 and Ephesians 2:8–9. 9. True or False: Lectio Divina is primarily an academic textual method. (T/

F) 10. Multiple choice: The best immediate step when you find a puzzling verse is: A) Quote it as proof for your view B) Read surrounding context and related passages C) Ignore it D) Treat it as isolated wisdom

Answer key: 1. Hermeneutics = the art and science of interpreting Scripture so readers understand its original meaning and contemporary application. 2. Because context (paragraph, book, audience, historical situation) determines the author's intended meaning and prevents proof-texting. 3. Narrative, poetry, epistle (also: law, prophecy, wisdom, apocalyptic). 4. False — proverbs are wisdom sayings, not guarantees in every situation. 5. It means using clearer passages of Scripture to explain harder or ambiguous passages, since the Bible forms a coherent witness. 6. Example: Greek *agape* or Hebrew *chesed* have shades of meaning that clarify "love" or "steadfast love." 7. B) Examining cultural background in depth — (this belongs primarily to historical-cultural method; literary-grammatical focuses on text/structure). 8. Model: Paul teaches that salvation is by grace through faith (not earned by works); James teaches that genuine faith is evidenced by works—faith produces works. 9. False — *Lectio Divina* is a devotional, prayerful reading practice. 10. B) Read surrounding context and related passages.

Scoring guidance & feedback: - 9–10: Excellent — strong grasp of basics. - 7–8: Good — solid, but review language/genre points. - 5–6: Fair — practice context and Scripture→Scripture technique more. - 0–4: Needs work — recommend redoing exercises and reviewing handouts.

Final notes & next steps

- You can copy the slide titles and bullet points directly into PowerPoint or Google Slides. Use the speaker notes when presenting.
- If you'd like, I can:
 - Generate a downloadable PowerPoint (.pptx) file from this slide content.
 - Export a Google Slides-ready outline (copy/paste format).
 - Create printable PDFs for each worksheet and the facilitator guide.

If you want a PPTX or PDFs, tell me which and I will generate them for you now.

End of teaching pack.