

Making progress as a SLOB leader

Importance of making progress as a SLOB

- What do we mean by progress & how should we do it?

Importance of making progress in studying the Bible

- The progress that matters is hearing Jesus better (Luke 10:38–42, Mark 4)
- Are we actually hearing Jesus speak and getting excited by that? Real danger of becoming 2nd generation evangelicals if not
 - No one chooses to become a 2nd generation evangelical, it happens for reasons like losing joy in and love for and trust in the Bible

So how do we make progress in hearing Jesus?

1. Look for the right thing—**God's word is usually telling us about what God is doing**—gospel is God doing what we can't, the Bible is the story of God at work
 - So we'll love, trust and hope in God more—this will lead to radical change
 - We love, trust and hope in God more by seeing more how wonderful he and his plan are so we fall in love with him and what he's doing
 - Initially we'll find this hard because we've become conditioned to look for ourselves in every passage and we need to relearn how to study the Bible

2. Realise **Bible study is making progress, not having the right answer**

- We think we've already got the right answer, so we don't work at hearing God

- But there's always more to learn about God because he's infinite—learning new things about God will give us joy in our Bible study

- NB learning more maybe either seeing new things or understanding the old things more/differently

3. **Think about what God is saying rather than simply reading the text well**

- Reading the text well is essential, but only as the means to genuinely hearing God

- Two questions to help:
 1. What has God said to us about himself and what he is doing

 2. In what way is this something we didn't know previously or has taken us further in our understanding

- Understanding isn't simply saying the right words about God & what he's doing, but actually gaining real comprehension

Questions:

What are the implications of all this for how we lead?

What are the implications for our personal study/prep?