



**Read** – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

**Examine** – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

**Apply** - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- What struck you most in this sermon?
- Simon made a point of how we were created for communion with God and others and how sin estranges and isolates us from God, others and ourselves. Do you see this in your own life? What might be substitutes you use to fill the void of lack of communion? In how far are they helpful? Where do they promise but not deliver?

- Read Colossians 1:15-22 and focus on verses 21-22. How does Jesus reconcile us? How can being reconciled to God through Jesus reconcile us to others and ourselves? What might that look like?
- Out of the four applications points at the end (Love, Forgiveness, Confession, Preaching and breaking bread) which one did you find most helpful/challenging?
- Take a few minutes to pray for another where you experience estrangement or isolation from God, others and yourself. Consider the goodness and friendliness of Jesus.