



# **HOW TO READ THE BIBLE**

UNDERSTANDING GENRE

The graphic features three horizontal brush strokes in shades of blue and cyan, layered on a light gray background. A white rectangular border is centered over the strokes, framing the text. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# **LESSON 9**

## **INTERPRETING EPISTLES**



## **THE NATURE OF EPISTLES**

- Structure
  - Identify sender and receiver
  - Word of thanksgiving and prayer
  - Body
  - Benediction or formalized greetings

A large, vibrant green brushstroke graphic that sweeps across the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a white-bordered box.

## **GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETING EPISTLES**

- Use “mirror-reading” with caution
- Divide the text into discourse units
- Understand the organization within a literary unit
- Determine the meaning of individual words
- Apply the message of the text

# RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*  
by Robert L. Plummer
- *ESV Study Bible*



# Where to Start

**Read 1 Corinthians. Who is writing and who is he writing to? What can we tell about the context of the letter? Look for the overall structure of the text. How you outline Paul's flow of thought?**



A stack of books with a smartphone on top, framed by a white border. The books have a textured cover, and the smartphone is a dark color with a clear case. The text is overlaid on the books.

# Resources to Get You Started

- *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*  
by Thomas Schreiner



# QUESTIONS!

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