

**STEP 1: WATCH & LEARN**

- Watch the video on the Growth Group Leaders website, and follow along using these notes.

# Developing as a Theological Thinker

## Why Develop Our Theology?



### How can we develop our theological thinking?

To develop our theological thinking, we will want to work on developing in three main areas:

1. Exegesis
2. Biblical Theology
3. Systematic Theology

And to help us develop in these three areas, here are five things that will help us:

1. Broad Work
2. Deep Work



## STEP 2: Put into Action

- Work through the training exercises below.
- Work with your **Trainer** (Growth Group Leader) to find an opportunity to put this into practice.

# Developing as a Theological Thinker Training Exercise

## Trainee

In the table below are a number of ideas of things you might use to develop in the areas of exegesis, biblical theology and systematic theology.

1. Add any ideas you can think of that are not here.

Exegesis	Biblical Theology	Systematic Theology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes in church</li> <li>• Whenever you read the Bible, hear sermons, write down questions you have. Chase down answers to these questions.</li> <li>• Use good tools and commentaries</li> <li>• Listen to good sermons</li> <li>• New Bible commentary</li> <li>• New Bible dictionary</li> <li>• Work on succinct summaries of passages</li> <li>• Prepare a Bible study</li> <li>• Use the manuscript method (print out a section of the Bible without headings, paragraphs etc and scribble on it to find structure, content, themes, arguments etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read through the whole Bible</li> <li>• Read a book like 'God's Big Picture' by Vaughn Roberts or 'According to Plan' by Goldsworthy</li> <li>• Trace a theme through the Bible</li> <li>• e.g. Temple, glory</li> <li>• e.g. Creation to new creation</li> <li>• e.g. King and Kingdom</li> <li>• Do the 'God's Book, God's Plan' Digging Deeper Course.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read theology</li> <li>• e.g. Knowing God</li> <li>• Listen to good lectures</li> <li>• Have a systematic theology as a reference</li> <li>• Little – Packer, TC Hammond</li> <li>• Big – Raymond, Grudem, Millard-Erickson, Horton</li> <li>• Do a theology Digging Deeper course</li> <li>• Come to Hot topics</li> <li>• Work on succinct explanations of theological concepts</li> <li>• Read 'Briefing' articles</li> <li>• Audio books</li> <li>• EV Generate</li> <li>• Write your own paper on a topic (your thoughts on a</li> </ul>

Exegesis	Biblical Theology	Systematic Theology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read a book like 'How to read the Bible for all it's worth' by Fee &amp; Stuart</li> </ul>		<p>topic, not even necessarily to share with others)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss theology with other (this is one of the best ways to develop your theology)</li> </ul>

2. Choose one or two ideas from the above list that you would like to give a go over the coming year and write them down.

3. Share these things with you leader.

4. Start working on doing them.

### STEP 3: Receive Feedback

- Your Trainer (Growth Group Leader) has been provided with tools to help them give you feedback, training and encouragement.
- Don't forget to ask your Growth Group Leader to meet up and provide you with feedback on each of these exercises.

Each time you meet up with your leader during the year let them know how you are going working on these things. Share any benefits you might be experiencing and ask any questions you might have.