

Handout (English Version - Module 5)

Module 5: Using the Compass
Interpreting the Bible and Practicing Havruta

Welcome to Practice!

We already know that the Bible is our compass. But a compass in the hands of someone who doesn't know how to read maps is useless. Today we are going to learn how to use this tool with precision and, more importantly, how to use it **together**.

1. The Keys to Interpretation (Don't invent!)

To avoid the mistake of making the Bible say what we want (instead of what God said), we need to follow some golden rules.

A. Context is King

- Never read a verse alone. Text without context is a pretext for confusion.
- **Always ask:**
 - What does the verse before and after say?
 - What does the whole chapter say?
 - Who was this originally written for?

Example: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Paul was in prison and talking about contentment in hunger or plenty, not about gaining superpowers.

B. Figurative vs. Literal Language

- The Bible uses poetry, metaphors, and hyperbole (intentional exaggeration).
- When Jesus says "I am the door", He is not saying He has hinges. He is using an image.
- Do not read as literal what is figurative.

2. Havruta: Discipleship in Action

At Surf Church, we believe that growth happens in community. We introduce our key tool: **Havruta**.

What Is It?

- It comes from the Aramaic word for "Friendship" or "Companion".
- It is not a teacher teaching a passive student. It is **two students learning together**.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)

The Goal:

- **Healthy Friction:** The goal is not to agree quickly ("Oh, right"). It is to challenge each other's understanding with love ("But why do you say that?", "Look at this other verse..."). This friction generates light.
- **Active Voice:** It forces you to speak and articulate your faith.
- **Autonomy:** It teaches you to feed on the Word during the week, not just on Sunday.

3. Your Havruta Guide (Cut and Keep!)

Use this simple guide to start practicing with a friend or mentor.

Step 1: The Pair and the Text

- Find a partner. Set a time (e.g., 30 min).
- Choose a short text (a paragraph or story).
- Read the text **ALoud** to each other.

Step 2: The 4 Golden Questions Discuss these questions without rushing:

1. **What catches your attention here?** (A word, a phrase, an attitude).
2. **What does this tell us about God (or Jesus)?** (His character, His power, His heart).
3. **What does this tell us about us (humans)?** (Our fears, mistakes, needs).
4. **If this is true, what changes in my life today?** (A practical action).

Step 3: Prayer

- Do not just end with "it was good". Pray for each other based on what you learned.

4. Practical Exercise in Class

Text: Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son) **My partner today:** _____

My discoveries during the discussion:

- About the Father: _____
- About the Sons: _____
- Application for me: _____

5. Challenge of the Week

1. Invite someone to do a 20-minute "mini-Havruta" this week (can be by phone/video call).
2. Choose a simple text (e.g., Psalm 23 or Matthew 5:1-12).
3. Use the 4 questions.

Log: Did Havruta with: _____ Day: _____