

## Episode 3 How Does Scripture Shape Us?

### The big idea

Preaching from a whole-life perspective involves our congregations being shaped through the world the Bible invites us to inhabit and the story it tells.

### For reflection and discussion

1. What assumptions are made about the nature of the Bible in the Christian tradition to which you belong, or your own local church context? How do you see those assumptions worked out in the regular preaching in that tradition or context?
2. What might be the unintended consequences for preaching of an approach which sees the Bible primarily as:
  - a. A collection of promises to be claimed?
  - b. A list of commands to be obeyed?
  - c. A set of principles to be discovered?

3. In the video, Conrad says: 'It's not the Bible that needs to be transformed. When you really read it, when you immerse yourself in it, it reshapes you.' How far are you aware of the shaping power of Scripture in your own reading of it? How does your preaching encourage people to expect this to happen to them?
4. Think about the biblical book or passages currently being preached on in your church. In what ways, so far as you can tell, is that book or those passages shaping people in the congregation and equipping them to live as disciples of Jesus? How might we know if our preaching is having any impact?

### Something to do

For people in the workplace, work is not a specific 'issue'; it's their everyday context. It's important, therefore, to preach in ways that help people relate the Bible to their work. Reflect further on Antony's threefold distinction between biblical passages that are *about* work, which *assume* work, and which are *applicable* to work. Try it out with the last passage on which you preached or the next one you're about to preach. Even if the passage is not *about* work as such, nor even *assumes* the reality of work, in what ways might the passage be *applicable* to work?