

Bible Study Leader's Training — Part 3

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I. Introduction.

II. There needs to be planning in the operation of a group.

A. Consider getting an inexpensive Bible available for everyone (for page references).

B. There needs to be a group covenant for preparation, participation, understanding, honest sharing, confidentiality and a commitment to attend.

III. The study.

A. Discovery.

1. This has to do with what it says.

2. You need a good English dictionary and a good Bible dictionary.

B. Understanding. This is what it means.

C. Application.

1. This is what it means to me.

2. This is the most important part because this is where God does the changing.

3. Three questions.

a. What impresses you most?

b. Where do I fall short?

c. What do I intend to do about it by the grace of God?

4. Application should be personal, practical and possible.

5. There are many cop outs for application such as substituting interpretation or emotional experience for it.

D. Leading.

1. Motivation is important.

2. Tell the people why, show them how, get them started and keep them going.

3. Use questions in your leading. Jesus taught by questions.

a. Launching.

1) This ties into discovery.

2) For example, what do you see?

b. Guiding.

1) This ties into understanding.

2) For instance, what does he really mean?

c. Summarizing.

1) This ties into application to some extent.

2) Wrap up and preaching is included in this.

4. Test your questions. Is your question...

a. Brief?

b. Applicable?

c. Simple?

d. Interesting?

e. Conforming?

5. Questions about your questions.

a. To whom is it directed?

b. What is the purpose?

c. What answer does it expect or suggest?

d. Does it personally involve the hearers?

e. Does it motivate?

IV. Group sharing.

V. Tips.

A. Ask questions on the question.

B. Make out a lesson plan that determines the time you have and the time you should spend on each segment.

VI. Basic problems in the group.

A. Someone who wants to dominate can be handled by saying, "That sounds perceptive; can we talk about it later?" or by grabbing the conversation back as soon as the person takes a breath. One can also ask the person to help draw others out. The last resort is to tell the person to pull back.

B. Someone who is silent can be identified by marking on who participates and then spending time with those individuals who are not participating

C. Wrong answers can be addressed by asking what someone else thinks. The Word of God can also be referred to.

D. Detours can be addressed by recognizing it and saying, "That is very perceptive, but maybe we can talk more about that later."

E. Do not be afraid of silence in a Bible discussion group.

F. Do not be afraid to say, "I don't know."

VII. The leader.

A. Be yourself. (1 Corinthians 12)

1. It is God's sovereign choice how he has bestowed gifts on you.

2. God has given you gifts for the advantage of the body.

3. God has placed you as his representative.

B. Lead according to your style and use your humor because that is what you have to share. (1 Corinthians 4:20)

VIII. The Devil's traps for a Bible discussion leader.

A. Putting it off.

B. Taking yourself too seriously.

C. Taking the ministry too lightly.

D. Comparing yourself with others. (2 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 6:4)

E. Discouragement. We must press on and encourage ourselves in the Lord. (2 Timothy 1:7; Philippians 3:14; 1 Samuel 3:6)

F. Quitting. (Ecclesiastes 7:8; 1 Kings 20:11)

G. Pride. (Luke 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:29)

IX. Ingredients that make a Bible discussion successful.

A. Start with one person with a desire for the Lord, sift in a few others who are eager plus some others who want to know Jesus, blend in an interesting and balanced course of study, add a cup of prayer and preparation, add in a tablespoon of common sense, drop in a pinch of humor, skin off religious language, season in a generous portion of acceptance, remove self-effort and allow the Holy Spirit to lead hearts to worship.

Application questions:

1. What is involved in careful Bible study planning?

2. What traps are you most prone to in Bible study leading?

3. How can you approach problems in your group better? Explain.
