

Leading Bible Studies

INTRODUCTION: each give one idea for an effective Bible study; for an ineffective Bible study.

1. Choose one main passage rather than many (topical studies), especially for beginners.
2. Involve family and friends whenever possible.
3. The KISS principle: Keep It Simple, Son/Sister!
4. Three types of discussion questions:
 - Observation (what does the passage actually say?)
 - Explanation (what needs to be explained that would not normally be understood by a first-time reader?)
 - Application (what can we put in practice?).
5. Design open questions (results in discussion); avoid closed questions (results in “yes” or “no”).
6. After reading the passage, ask:
 - Say (What is God saying to me in this passage?)
 - Obey (What shall I obey from this passage?)
 - Share (What can I share? With whom?)
 - Learn (What can I learn about... from this passage?)
 - Obey (What shall I obey from this passage?)
 - Tell (What can I share? With whom?)
7. Aim toward obeying and sharing.
8. Discuss rather than lecture. Ask, “What do you think?”
9. Encourage the participation of everyone.
10. Observe the types of participants in your Bible study:
 - a. New arrivals
 - b. Shy and quiet
 - c. Talkers
 - d. Those with little Bible background or extensive Bible knowledge.
11. Keep in mind the seating arrangement.
12. Understand how group dynamics are impacted by the size of the group:

Formula: # in the group X # in the group – the # in the group = # of relationships in the group
13. Not too long (30-60 minutes).
14. Keep it reproducible.
15. Close with simple prayers for real needs.

Note: pray with the unchurched people in mind by... “If you pray in silence, when finished please say ‘I’m done’ or ‘Amen’ so we know you’ve finished.”
16. Format of a group meeting.... Catch up; read up; pray up.

Question and Answer

Exercise: Read a short Bible passage; give examples of OEA questions; then design open/closed questions and the rest of the group say which it is. Then do the SOS questions. Passage: Mark 4:26-29.

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1. Choose _____ main passage rather than many (topical studies), especially for beginners.
2. Involve _____ and friends whenever possible.
3. The _____ principle: Keep It Simple, Son/Sister!
4. Three types of discussion questions:
 - O _____ (what does the passage actually say?)
 - E _____ (what needs to be explained that would not normally be understood by a first-time reader?)
 - A _____ (what can we put in practice?).
5. Design _____ questions (results in discussion); avoid _____ questions (results in “yes” or “no”).
6. After reading the passage, ask:
 - S _____ (What is God saying to me in this passage?) -Learn (What can I learn about...from this passage?)
 - O _____ (What shall I obey from this passage?) -Obey (What shall I obey from this passage?)
 - S _____ (What can I share? With whom?) -Tell (What can I share? With whom?)
7. Aim toward _____ and _____.
8. _____ rather than lecture.
9. Encourage the _____ of everyone.
10. Observe the types of _____ in your Bible study:
 - a. New arrivals
 - b. Shy and quiet
 - c. Talkers
 - d. Those with little Bible background
11. Keep in mind the _____ arrangement.
12. Understand how group dynamics are impacted by the _____ of the group:
Formula: # in the group X # in the group – the # in the group = # of relationships
13. Not too _____ (30-60 minutes).
14. Keep it _____.
15. Close with simple _____ for real needs. Note: pray with the unchurched people in mind by...
16. Format for a group meeting...