

SESSION 2



Tools for Building a Better Bible Study

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“Never underestimate the value of a simple tool.”

What is the purpose of a tool?

5 Tools for Building a Better Bible Study

1. _____

“Ezra had determined in his heart to **study** the law of the Lord, **obey** it, and **teach** its statutes and ordinances to Israel.” – Ezra 7:10

- Study = _____
- Obey = _____
- Teach = _____

Preparation precedes public ministry.

- Moses spent time in the wilderness
- Jesus spent time in the wilderness
- Paul spent 10 years in preparation

“No matter how wonderful the Bible study curriculum, there is no appropriate shortcut for prayerful thorough Bible study before teaching.” – *Teaching That Transforms*, p.159

“Good teaching can overcome weaknesses in curriculum materials, but **great materials cannot overcome weak teaching**. It’s you, the leader, who really makes the difference” (*Teaching Adults*, p.70)

Prepare a great Bible study in just 30 minutes a day

Monday

- Read core lesson passage in several translations
- Jot down key words, people, places that need further exploration

Tuesday

- Consult Bible study resources (Bible dictionary, atlas, concordance, etc) to research key words, people, and places identified on Monday

Wednesday

- Ask questions of the text: Attitude to adjust? Promise to claim? Priority to change? Lesson to learn? Command to obey? Truth to believe? Sin to confess? Example to follow?

Thursday

- Consult and/or develop/adapt your teaching outline (1-3 points)

Friday

- Consult and/or develop your group plan (allow for learner involvement/active learning/learning preferences of group members)

Saturday

- Review and refine your group plan
- Gather resources

Sunday

- Guide the Bible study
- Evaluate

Basic tools for a group leader's teaching toolbox:

- Bible
- Concordance
- Bible atlas
- Bible dictionary
- Commentary
- Ongoing curriculum

2. _____

Learning dramatically increases when people talk and discuss the Scripture text

"A small group or class Bible study should be a 'groupalogue'...Your effectiveness goes up incredibly as does learning when everyone is talking..." (p.24)

"...depth in learning is often directly related to how much people interact on a personal level as they discover, wrestle, and apply principles from the text to their lives" (p.127)

Types of discussion questions

1. _____

2. Bridge

3. _____

4. Open
5. Inductive
6. _____-based
7. _____-based

Discussion-killing questions

1. Idiot
2. Unreasonable
3. Long-winded
4. Compound
5. Leading-the-witness
6. Spur-of-the-moment

Questions that boost discussion

1. Thoughtful/provocative
2. Controversial
3. _____
4. _____

Leader tips

1. Find something to _____ with in each answer given.
2. Allow group members to talk more than you do.
3. Engage in _____ listening.

Don't be afraid of silence...

“Research indicates that the quality of student responses improves if the wait time after a teacher’s question extends beyond the normal one to three seconds to **twenty seconds**” – *Basics of Teaching for Christians*, p.68

“Talking doesn’t equal teaching any more than listening equals learning” (*3 Roles for Guiding Groups*, p.12)

What are the benefits to both the **leader** and the **group members** when conversation takes place?

3. _____

Effective teaching plans call for a variety of teaching methods and involvement of group members

Hebrews 1:1-2

“Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times **and in various ways...**”

“...the best way to help people change is to involve them...in the learning experience.

Each lesson needs to involve in a variety of learning activities...” (p.107)

“...each sense organ is a gateway to the mind of the pupil...**the mind attends to that which makes a powerful appeal to the senses**” (pp.32-34)

“Maximum learning happens when there is maximum involvement” – *Teaching to Change Lives*, p.78

8 Ways People Learn

1. Logical
2. Musical
3. Natural
4. Physical
5. Reflective
6. Relational
7. Verbal
8. Visual

Eight Ways People Learn and Ways to Teach

Relational — Highly social, make friends easily, may be very good talkers, “People Persons.”

Methods: case study, small groups, personal sharing, testimony, storytelling, debate, interview, discussion, Biblical simulation, dialogue, role play, skit, games, brainstorming, problem solving that depends on others.

Verbal — Learn best through words—reading, writing, speaking, listening, like the sounds of words.

Methods: lecture, question/answer, brainstorming, case study, resource persons, listening teams, personal sharing, oral reading, debate, interview, writing words for songs, monologue, dialogue, paraphrase Scripture, storytelling, panel, skit, games.

Visual — “Create their own pictures” and visuals of what they are learning, “see” in their imaginations if no concrete visual.

Methods: Videos, movie clips, posters, charts, maps, object lessons, asking “what if” questions, watching drama, collage, drawing diagrams, wire or paper sculpture.

Reflective — Understand who they are and how they feel, comfortable with periods of quiet.

Methods: lecture, case study, question/answer, open-ended sentences, attitude scale, creative writing, diary or journal, listening guides, worksheets and study guides, written tests, listening to music, opinionnaire.

Logical — Enjoy problem solving, reason through difficult situations, rely on analogies.

Methods: written test, lecture, worksheets or study guides, notebook, outline, word study, statistics, debate, panel, questions that help discern relationships.

Physical — Very active, have good coordination, play out a story, enjoy “hands on” activities.

Methods: Move to agree/disagree poster, join hands in a circle, art activities (wire/paper sculpture, paper tearing, painting, etc.) arranging room, games, singing with motions, Biblical simulation, skit role play.

Musical — Enjoy music, tend to be good listeners, easy to express themselves through music.

Methods: write words for well-known hymns, records, CDs, find hymns relating to the lesson, comparing words of hymns to Scripture, listening to recorded music (sacred or secular).

Natural — Enjoy the beauty, investigation and exploration of God’s creation.

Methods: collect or display items from nature, nature walk, sort items from nature, classify items from nature, observe natural items, protect God’s world, plant, cultivate, reflect on or relate to creation and the creator.

20 Methods Used By Jesus

1. *Object lessons (John 4:1-42)*
2. *Points of contact (John 1:35-51)*
3. *Aims (John 4:34)*
4. *Problem-solving (Mark 10:17-22)*
5. *Conversation (Mark 10:27)*
6. *Questions (As recorded in the Gospels, Jesus asked over 100 questions to provoke people to think and seek the truth.)*
7. *Answers (Jesus used His answers to move people from where they were to where they needed to be in order to grow spiritually. Jesus encouraged people to discover the truth.)*
8. *Lecture (Matt. 5-7; John 14-17)*
9. *Parables (John 10:1-21; 15:1-10)*
10. *Scripture (Jesus quoted extensively from the Old Testament when teaching.)*
11. *Teachable moments (John 4:5-26)*
12. *Contrast (Matt. 5:21-22,33-34,38-39)*
13. *Concrete and literal examples (Matt. 6:26-34)*
14. *Symbols (Matt. 26:17-20)*
15. *Large and small groups (Matt. 5-7; John 14-17)*
16. *Individual teaching opportunities (John 3:1-21)*
17. *Modeling (Matt. 15:32)*
18. *Motivation (Matt. 16:24-27)*
19. *Impression and expression (Matt. 4:19-20; 7:20)*
20. *Himself (Matt. 28:19-20)*

4. _____

*A Bible study that does not help people apply the Scripture is an
_____ Bible study experience*

Walk

Run

Soar

Without proper application, Bible studies are nothing more than history lessons...

5. _____

“Assimilation is more than just becoming a member of a group. In fact, a person may be a new member but never be assimilated into the body...” - *10 Best Practices*, p.155

_____ % of visitors to your church will **never return** if you do not have an intentional strategy for assimilation.

Dr. Thom Rainer's Research

- _____ of 100 people are still active in 5 years if they only attend worship
- _____ of 100 people are still active in 5 years if they attend Sunday School
- _____ % of new members will drop out in year #1 if they don't get involved in a small group, meet new friends, and find a place of ministry

13 Things Guests Wish We Knew

1. They are _____.
2. They evaluate everything.
3. They feel like _____.
4. They are hopeful.
5. They don't want to be _____.

6. They are heavily influenced by their _____ at church.
7. They are more likely to give us social media info than personal info.
8. They are taking up to _____ months to join a church.
9. Their first impression of the church is hard to overcome if it's negative.
10. Their last impression of the church is hard to overcome if it's negative.
11. They have other options besides your church.
12. The church doesn't get bonus points for being _____.
13. Being a guest is an _____ experience you've probably forgotten about.

8 Principles of Follow-Up

Principle #1 – You can be too aggressive in your follow-up

- Attenders at your church are on a “_____” – they don't know what to expect and are often very anxious
- Don't ask them to “_____” your church too fast – that will ruin the “courtship”

Principle #2 – If you aren't starting _____ groups, you won't easily connect guests

- The “LEGO factor” is real

Principle #3 – Contact by group members is more effective than contact by church staff

A survey indicates that the impact of a home visit is reduced by approximately 50% when made by a church staff member rather than people from a Sunday School class! - *5 Handles for Getting A Grip on Your Sunday School*, p. 10

Principle #4 – The sooner you make a visit, the more likely they are to _____

A survey indicates that:

- If visited in the home within 36 hours, first-time guests return **85%** of the time
- If visited in the home within 72 hours, first-time guests return **60%** of the time
- If visited in the home 7 days after the initial visit, only **15%** of first-time guests return the next week

-5 Handles for Getting a Grip on Your Sunday School, p.10

Principle #5 – Follow-up is more like a _____ than a _____

The average family is now visiting a church (or churches) for **18 months** before committing to join (*Membership Matters, p.95*)

Patience and **follow-up** are the keys to moving people from being attenders to being members

Principle #6 – If guests make _____ visits, your chances of retaining them increase

- **10%** of all first-time guests will become members
- **25%** of all second-time guests will become members
- **45%** of all third-time guests will become members

(Source: Outreach Marketing)

Principle #7 – One size does not fit all...there are multiple ways you can follow up with people

1. Home visit
2. Phone call
3. E-mail
4. Letter
5. Text message
6. Facebook message
7. Twitter message
8. Meeting at a neutral site (lunch, coffee, breakfast, other venue)

Principle #8 – _____ preferences may affect how you follow up with people

- **Seniors** – personal contact/home visit
- **Younger adults** - tech-centric communication
- **Median adults** - efficient communication such as email, phone call

10 Ways A Bible Study Group Can Help Connect Guests During & After The Visit

1. Invite the guest to enroll in the group the first time they visit.
2. Recruit greeters in Bible study groups
3. Provide nametags for everyone to wear
4. Make a “doorstep visit”(preferably within 24 hours of the first visit)
5. Have interactive Bible study that leads to discussion in smaller groups
6. Serve together...have a monthly or quarterly ministry project and invite guests to participate
7. Go to lunch once a month as a group
8. Send out electronic communication each week (prayer requests, updates, previews of upcoming Bible study sessions) and include prospects.
9. Party together – invite guests to all fellowships.
10. Provide PSGs (Personal Study Guides) for each guest.