

# Empower Missions

## How to Create and Have a Bible Study

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“He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. ” {COL 354.1}

### **1. Let Jesus be in the Center**

“The very first and the most important thing is to melt and subdue the soul by presenting our Lord Jesus Christ as the sinbearer, the sin-pardoning Saviour, making the gospel as clear as possible.” {Ev 264.3}

“The wonderful love of Christ will melt and subdue hearts, when the mere reiteration of doctrines would accomplish nothing.” DA 826

### **2. Reveal truth gradually**

**Proverbs 4:18:** “But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”

“I have been shown that our ministers go too rapidly through their subjects and bring the most objectionable features of our faith too early into their effort. There are truths that will not involve so great a cross, that should be kept before their minds, day after day and even weeks before the Sabbath and immortality questions are entered upon. Then you gain the confidence of the people as being men who have clear, forcible arguments, and they think you understand the Scriptures. When once the confidence of the people is gained, then it is time enough to introduce publicly the Sabbath and immortality questions.” {Ev 246.3}

Small decisions will lead to greater decisions.

### **3. Make regular appeals**

Ask for a decision in each study.

“At the close of every meeting, decisions should be called for. Hold fast to those interested, until they are confirmed in the faith.” {6T 64.3}

## **What to include in a study**

### **Main points**

- What are the most important things you want the person to remember?
- Let the points be clear, practical and personal, that one can implement into life.
- 3-4 main points in a study.
- Share an illustration/a personal testimony for each main point.
- Repeat all main points in the end, before the appeal.

### **Illustrations**

- It makes the theme clear, and you understand the point easier.
- You get attention from people

- Don't use humor that leads away the thoughts to the illustration, rather to what you are illustrating.
- Jesus used illustrations - parables.
- They can be easy to remember.
- Illustrations should be a support to God's word, not opposite. Let the illustrations be relevant and straight to the main point, and to the Bible.

"Jesus sought an avenue to every heart. By using a variety of illustrations, He not only presented truth in its different phases, but appealed to the different hearers. Their interest was aroused by figures drawn from the surroundings of their daily life. None who listened to the Saviour could feel that they were neglected or forgotten. The humblest, the most sinful, heard in His teaching a voice that spoke to them in sympathy and tenderness." {COL 21.2}

"In His teaching, Christ drew His illustrations from the great treasury of household ties and affections, and from nature. The unknown was illustrated by the known; sacred and divine truths, by natural, earthly things, with which the people were most familiar. These were the things that would speak to their hearts, and make the deepest impression on their minds." {CT 178.3}

#### *Personal testimonies*

When people see how God has been leading in your life, it is an encouragement for their spiritual lives.

Examples on what an illustration can be:

- Story, poem, exciting facts, news, nature.

Places where to look for illustrations:

1. Newspaper
2. Book of Amazing Facts
3. Encyclopedia
4. History
5. Your experiences
6. Internet (Beware though of false information!)
7. Nature books or videos
8. Creation Science Fact books or websites

Websites:

[www.sermonillustrations.com](http://www.sermonillustrations.com)

[www.bible.org/illus.php](http://www.bible.org/illus.php)

[www.crosswalk.com/pastors/illustrations](http://www.crosswalk.com/pastors/illustrations)

[www.ozsermonillustrations.com](http://www.ozsermonillustrations.com)

<http://elbourne.org/sermons>  
[www.sermonillustrator.org](http://www.sermonillustrator.org)  
[www.higherpraise.com/illustrations.html](http://www.higherpraise.com/illustrations.html)  
<http://net.bible.org/illustration.php>  
[www.missionsmag.com](http://www.missionsmag.com)  
[gbm-umc.org/resources/stories](http://gbm-umc.org/resources/stories)  
[www.global-mission.org](http://www.global-mission.org)  
[www.afmonline.org](http://www.afmonline.org)  
[www.didyouknow.cd/facts.htm](http://www.didyouknow.cd/facts.htm)  
[www.ccel.org/f/foxe/martyrs/home.html](http://www.ccel.org/f/foxe/martyrs/home.html)  
[www.awesomestories.com/history](http://www.awesomestories.com/history)

### **Appeal**

Write an appeal where you use ideas from your main points. Let it come from the heart and let Jesus be the center. Use an illustration, or a personal testimony that can touch the heart. At the end of the appeal, have a clear, specific and direct question, where they have to make a decision related to the study. Close with prayer.

It is important that the person you study with, makes a decision for each study in order to be able to move on, but do not push. After the appeal, you can introduce the next study.

## **Overview of a bible study**

### **Introduction**

Story or fact, with Bible text that introduces subject being studied.

### **Body of Study**

#### **MP1:**

- 2 or more bible texts that supports the main point, with comments.
- Illustration/testimony that clarifies the Main Point.
- Extra text if needed.

#### **MP2:**

- 2 or more bible texts that supports the main point, with comments.
- Illustration/testimony that clarifies the MP
- Extra text if needed.

#### **MP3:**

- 2 or more bible texts that supports the main point, with comments.

- Illustration/testimony that clarifies the MP
- Extra text if needed.

Be sure to ask questions with each section. Don't ask too many but not too few either.

### **Appeal**

- Seek to move the heart with a story, etc.
- Ask diagnostic questions related to subject
- Create desire & motivation for a person
- Have one appeal text that heightens desire
- Ask decision question

## **Having the bible study**

### **Part 1 - Social time:**

Spend 8-10 minutes getting to know them and winning the heart of your interest.

- Recognize things of interest.

### **Part 2 - Main part of the study:**

- Christ centered! Love is the basis of all your lessons because "God is love."
- Relational and Personal.
- Use personal testimony at least once in the study, if possible.
- Use extra texts, when they fit, dealing with specific needs of the person, and that is relating to a personal relationship with Christ.

### **Part 3 - Appeal and decision:**

Spend 3-5 minutes on this

- How will this study affect life?
- What difference will it make?
- Make an appeal.
- Always ask for decision.
- Seal the decision in prayer.
- Don't stay very long after the study.

### **Key points to remember:**

- If possible, bring another person to the study, that can be your support. This person can pray.
- Focus on one subject at a time, and don't go off topic.
- Take turns looking up Bible verses, among those who participate in the study.

- Don't have too long studies. 1 hour is often more than enough. (even if people want to study more) Rather set a new time for the next study.
- Focus on the person you're talking to, and show interest.
- Be a good listener.
- Good body language and eye contact.
- Don't be off topic!
- Discover your interest's felt needs, and try to meet them.
- Be a friend to them.
- Pray silently through the study.
- "Salt the oats".
- Share short personal testimonies, how God has worked in your life.

KEEP BEFORE YOU ONE SOUL AT A TIME, ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME, AND ONE OBJECT ALL THE TIME.

Evaluate each other's study, and improve, with this sheet:

### Evaluation of a Bible Study

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Christ Centered

☐

Sections divided (with 3-4 main points)

The main points were:

☐

Clear

☐

Practical

☐

Personal

☐

The study has illustrations and personal testimonies that are:

☐

Clear, and related to the main point

☐

Interesting

The appeal

☐

was clear, convincing, convicting and from the heart

☐

had a decision question that was clear and specific