

# ▲ Bible Study Prep, Part 1 ▲

Why teach? How do I start?

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**Objectives:** LEAD participants will be able to prepare for leading a Bible study with personal study, and they will be motivated to teach.

**Plan ahead:**

- Time required: 45 min
- Write these verses up on the white board or newsprint: 2 Tim 2:15, Titus 2:3-5, Hebrews 5:12, James 1:22-24, James 3:1

**Before this lesson, LEADs must:**

- Read Page 1 of the Bible Study Prep Handout

**Supplies:**

- White board or newsprint and pens
- Bandana or similar object that you can hold and a person come grab quickly

**Accompanying documents:**

- Bible Study Prep Handout
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Instructor notes:

❖ **Get Started (hook, 5 min)**

Sit in a circle with no designated leader. Say, "Let's study the Bible!" Suggest reading Hebrews 5:12. Let someone read it. Give suggestions but little clear leadership. Ask questions like, "what do you think this means?" or "how would you put this into practice in your life?" Let this go on for enough time for the LEADs to recognize that unless someone takes the lead and teaches, they are wasting their time; they will get next to nothing out of the study.

❖ **Learn / observe (book / look, 35 min)**

How effective is this sort of Bible study? (Get their answers - but it's not super effective.)

LEARNING TASK (15 min): Let's try something different. Let's play a game show like Family Feud. I'll hold out this bandana (or similar grab-able object). We will have X teams of 3+ people (need at least 3 people on each team - two to look up verses, one to grab the bandana).

I'll ask a question. You look up the verses posted on the board. As soon as you have an answer to the question, have your teammate grab the bandana. Whoever gets it first needs to answer right away. If they are wrong or hesitate, the next closest team to the bandana gets a shot.

I'll give you five minutes to prepare, to look up the verses and read them. Mark the pages in your Bible if you want. What questions do you have? (Divide into teams, move the chairs as necessary. Give them 5 min to prep.)

Here are the questions?

- Why should we step up and teach?
- Who is to "teach younger women"?
- How are we to handle the Word of God?

- Why should we prepare carefully, not just the lesson, but also your life?
- What should the goal of any Bible study be?

(Celebrate the winner! Then review the questions.)

Great work! Now let's dig into these questions a little deeper.

- **Why should someone step up and teach?** (Get their answers. Have someone read Heb 5:12) The Bible has an expectation that we will grow in our faith then begin to teach. That is the order of things. It's also the order in our activities: many specialists here at camp grew up doing their activity, became better at it and now teach it. That's just how life works. It's the same in faith. Hebrews 5:12 says we are expected to become teachers. If no one teaches, no one learns and we become a bunch of weak Christians who are not growing in our faith.

- **Who is to "teach younger women"?** (Get their answers then have someone read Titus 2:3-5.) The Bible talks about older women teaching younger women. This is not necessarily older in age, though it may be. And it may be awkward to teach a woman older than yourself in age. It is older in maturity. Those who have the maturity and training to teach *should* teach. Teachers are desperately needed!

- **How are we to handle the Word of God?** (Get their answers then have someone read 2 Timothy 2:15.) God has given us His Word. We will someday answer to Him for what we did with it and how we handled it. Let's commit to handling it well.

- **Why should we prepare carefully, not just the lesson but also your life?** (Get their answers then have someone read James 3:1.) Those who teach (ideally!) have studied far more than anyone else in the group. It's been said, "If you want to learn, teach." God said, *Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required* (Luke 12:48). Once we have grown spiritually and have something to offer our neighbors, we need to be teaching, but we also need to be aware that teaching comes with a very serious responsibility.

- **What should the goal of any Bible study be?** (Get their answers then have someone read James 1:22-24.) If we walk out of a Bible study without something people can actually do or change, then we are teaching people to look into the mirror and walk away without doing anything about what they see. More than anything, people need to be able to read the Bible and learn how to put what they read into practice. They need to connect what they read with what God is asking them to change. As the teacher, you will have the chance to help them make this connection, and this is the most important connection they will every make. Now that is a HUGE opportunity!

TRANSITION: So HOW do we help people grow? How do we help people connect what God says with how they can change and grow in real, practical ways? How do we "rightly handle the Word"?

These are great and hard questions, but it's really not all that difficult. "You can't lead where you haven't been," so before you teach, you need to study the passage and begin to put it into practice in your own life. Open to your Handout to the first page of it. Find the second section, "Beginning your study."

(Talk through the Handout. Main points to hit:

- Pray
- Read it in context - chapter, section or whole book depending on time and passage
- Read it several times
- Ask the basic questions: What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean to me?)

It is important to note that this works best for "expositional" teaching, where you go through the Bible as it was written, whole books at a time. Book by book (expositionally) is the best way to study it. However, sometimes we do "topical" studies. We look up verses on a certain topic. In this case, it is essential to read the context around each of these verses. Far more reading, but very important if we are to understand what God really has to say on that topic!

From there, you already have an idea of a Main Point, which answers the question, "What does it mean?" Use the SPECS model to help you refine it to a single statement. Is the Main Point a:

1. **Sin** to be repented of (attitude or action to get rid of)

2. **Promise** to claim (assurance or benefit God offers)
3. **Example** to follow (good attitudes or actions to imitate)
4. **Command** to be obeyed (directions from God)
5. **Stumbling block** to avoid (things God warns against)

Work until you can capture the Main Point in a short sentence or phrase that people will be able to remember in a week. (FYI, the ability to do this is what really sets apart Andy Stanley and other strong preachers.)

Once you have your Main Point in a memorable sentence or phrase, brainstorm ways to put it into practice. These questions may help:

- How might I begin implementing this Main Point today or tomorrow?
- How might I develop it into a habit?
- How should this influence my thoughts, and how can I make sure it does?
- How might the people in my group put this into practice? Consider their differing backgrounds and lives.
- If I did this (or thought this way, or avoided this, or gave this up), how would my life look different?
- What is the first step (or next step) in this direction? What about for people in the group?

Often we know *what* to do, often we even know *why* we should do it. But *HOW* to do it - and the motivation to do it - those are really hard to come by. Continue thinking, brainstorming, bouncing ideas off a trusted friend or mentor, until you reach the level of *how* and the benefit / motivation.

When the people in your group leave knowing what to do, why to do it and how to do it, truly all that is left to them is "Will I CHOOSE to do it?" At that point, you - the teacher and leader - have brought the as far as you can. The rest is between them and God, though as a mentor and friend to them, you may still continue to play a role.

If you leave them even one step short of the decision to "do it or not," you have not done all you can yet.

So strive to get to a tangible, practical, realistic, achievable and measurable application. (Measurable means you can look back and easily evaluate, "yes, I did this" or "no, I didn't.")

### ❖ **Get Practical (took)**

Let's do a quick review. What are the steps to preparing? (Use the Handout to make sure they hit them all.)

Who are you getting this lesson from, to the best of your ability? (God)

What should the people be able to do with your Main Point? (Remember it in a week)

What is the most important thing for them to arrive at by the end of the study? (The decision point for real application.)

### ❖ **Homework (follow up assignment)**

Now it's your turn to put this into practice.

Divide into the groups that will teach Bible Ex next week. Give them the subject and the references. Let them get started with their reading. It will be a lot of reading, to read each verse(s) in context and three times. But they need to do this part on their own. They have a guide in their Handout that you may use to keep track of their thoughts and follow the directions. They may also use their notebook.

Once they have done the Bible study part on their own, they can work together to develop a Main Point and the rest of the lesson.