**How To Teach A Bible Study**

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As individuals in today’s world are faced with enormous problems—marital, financial, emotional, and many others—we, as the church, have to have something that will provide the help and the answers the people of this world need. The question is, “Where do we find this help?” The best place we can look is the Word of God. It is the only place we will find lasting answers to life’s dilemmas.

There is a deep desire and thirst within every one of us that can only be satisfied by Christ. John 4:14 says, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” The Bible gives us hope of life. It’s not life that will wither and die. It’s an unbelievable everlasting life.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Bible study is not about the teachings of a church or of a specific religion. It is about opening the Word of God and sharing the treasures that lie within it. It’s through Bible study that others will discover these principles and this life the Lord desires us to have.

**Be Spirit led**. There are a number of settings and situations in which you may teach a Bible study. For all practical purposes, I will primarily address the small-group home Bible study. The first and most important component to teaching a productive study is to prepare yourself with a worthy lifestyle. We, as teachers of the Word, must have a consistent, daily devotion with the Lord—primarily, prayer, fasting, and personal study of the Word. Without a closeness and sensitivity to the Holy Ghost, we may be relying on our own skill and knowledge to accomplish a very spiritual feat.

**Know your audience**. One of the most difficult parts of a Bible study is actually finding a student or group of students to teach. There are many places to look, such as your family, co-workers, or, my personal favorite, at the altar of your church.

Regardless of where the student is found, it is important that you immediately begin to build a rapport with this person. Although this is not always possible, making the effort to befriend them is always a good teaching practice because relationships are key to the success of your Bible study and the longevity of the discipleship process. If a person has trust in you, he/she is more apt to accept the truths you are sharing with him/her. The love you show in a friendship provides the glue that makes the friendship stick. Finally, by knowing your audience, you will be able to better prepare your content to match their stage of life.

**Study before the study**. Before each lesson, you need solid preparation time. Shadowing another seasoned Bible study teacher, if one is available, is an excellent way to get ready to teach your Bible study.

Preparation should always include prayer, scripture reading, and a deep study of the Word. Always study additional information on the topics and scripture you will be teaching. However, keep in mind that no lesson should last longer than forty-five minutes unless extended by the student’s questions. If you are using notes and resources from other people, be sure to grasp and absorb the information so well that it flows from both your heart and mind during the study. The Word must come alive in you first before it will impact a student.

If you are a new teacher, it is very helpful to choose a proven published study, such as *The Bible Made Simple* (available at White Steeple Bookstore or [www.pentecostalpublishing.org](http://www.pentecostalpublishing.org)), to initially simplify your study process. *The Bible Made Simple* provides a concise study of the Bible and man’s history in a thirteen-lesson format. You should also always be prepared with a one-lesson study on salvation, such as *Salvation Made Simple* (also available at White Steeple Bookstore or [www.pentecostalpublishing.org](http://www.pentecostalpublishing.org)). If you feel you may only have one opportunity to teach someone a Bible study, this study will get to the root of the matter.

**Deliver the message.** Once you are teaching the Bible study and delivering the message, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

* Open and close every lesson with prayer.
* The two most important themes we find in the Bible are God’s revelation of Himself to man and God’s plan of salvation for man. Understand, your primary objective is to lead them to salvation. Pay attention to opportunities to pray with them and lead them.
* Stay in the Bible and present the facts. You don’t have time to debate, and you are not your student’s judge.
* Understand what the scripture is really saying. Don’t take it out of context.
* Don’t try to teach everything you know. Stay on subject and keep it simple.
* Strive for application, not just interpretation. Finishing the lesson is not as important as discovering concepts that can be applied to daily life.
* Don’t over do it, but at appropriate times, ask open-ended questions to try to get your student involved in the lesson.
* Relax and teach informally.
* Don’t hesitate to express your love and concern for your student.

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). When Jesus called the first disciples, the first promise He made was, “Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men” (Mark 1:16). It is very simple—our mission, the purpose for Bible studies, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.