Princeton Graduate Christian Fellowship
IDEAS FOR LEADING A BIBLE STUDY

There are many ways to approach leading a Bible study, but if you get stuck or want some help, here are some suggestions. Please feel free to contact the leadership team if you need further assistance.

**Preparation for the Bible Study:**
- Pray for God’s guidance as you prepare for the Bible study.
- Read the passage over several times (perhaps out loud and in several translations).
- Consider following the steps of the inductive Bible study method:
  (1) **Observation**: What does this passage actually say?
  *Who is involved in this passage (persons and groups: biographical question)?
  *What things or terms involved in this passage (definitional question)?
  *Where does this passage take place (geographical question)?
  *When does this passage take place (time: chronological question)?
  *Why does this passage take place (reason or purpose: rational question)?
  *How does this passage take place (manner or means: modal question)?
  *What are the implications of the answers to these questions (implicational question)?
  (2) **Interpretation**: What does this passage mean in its original historical and literary context?
  (3) **Evaluation**: What timeless biblical principle(s) are evident in this passage?
  (4) **Application**: What does this passage mean for me in actual practice?
  - Think in terms of the paragraph (not the individual verse) as the basic unit of thought.
  - Try giving each paragraph a brief (3-5 words) and descriptive title to summarize the contents.
  - Remember to consider the immediate literary context (the material just before and after your particular passage). Get a feel for the flow of thought in the passage.
  - Consult a good Bible commentary to clarify any unresolved issues.
  - Write down a few discussion questions for the group to consider.

**Leading the Bible Study:**
- Pray or ask a volunteer to pray for God’s blessing upon the Bible study.
- Come up with a contemporary ice breaker question that may relate to the content of the passage in some way. Be conscious of how long the answers will take.
- Ask for volunteers to read the various units (i.e., paragraphs) of Scripture.
- Ask leading observation, interpretation, evaluation, and application questions about the passage (see above for specific types of questions).
- Don’t feel that you need to have all of the answers to the questions that you ask or are raised in the Bible study.
- Follow up responses with further questions.
- Don’t be afraid of short periods of silence while people formulate their thoughts.
- Always include some kind of application question about how this passage relates to our lives today and calls for a faithful and obedient response.
- The Bible study should conclude promptly at 9:00 p.m.