

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.