



CAMPUS
MINISTRY
TODAY

HOW TO DEVELOP A DISCUSSION ON A BIBLE PASSAGE

created by
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God's Word is your most powerful tool in ministry (Heb. 4:12). Unfortunately, some of us feel under-trained on how to accurately handle God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) OR others of us try to overcomplicate it and miss our college audience. This tool can help you analyze and develop a discussion or talk around a text. The idea is to bring the passage's proper context and meaning into the talk. Then you should be able to take it from there to bring in application for the daily lives of your college students.

Preparation:

1. What's the Big Idea?

In general, what seems to be the author's primary concern? What is he trying to communicate in the paragraph or group of paragraphs?

2. What is the Fallen Condition Focus?

What concerns did the text address in its original context? What were the original readers experiencing? What aspect of our fallen nature do we share with them? (If you'd like to learn more, Bryan Chapell wrote an [article](#) and [book](#) on the topic)

Presentation:

1. LIFE: Opening question / introduction

Framing your passage in a way that makes your audience want to listen cannot be overstated. We must introduce the passage in a way that shows its abiding relevance for today. This combines our understanding of the big idea of the passage and the fallen condition focus of both the intended audience and our current Bible study participants.

2. TEXT: A question that gets into the text

Next you want to ask a question that gets your people into the text at hand. You want to ask the question in a way that will help them find the big idea you are wanting to communicate.

3. LIFE: A question about how to apply this

You then want to move from text to life. You want to help them see how this passage can start to change their life.

4. TEXT: Another question to get into the text

After this you want to get them back into the text with another question that highlights the fallen condition focus.

5. LIFE: Another question on how to apply this

Lastly, you want to help them see how this text answers the introductory question you asked and affects their life as a result.

This is a simple, easy-to-use template that doesn't do too much, but keeps us faithful to the text and applies it to the lives of our people.

Bruce Lowe, RTS Professor, first introduced me to this style of thinking.