

cmt Global Project

D-Group Resources

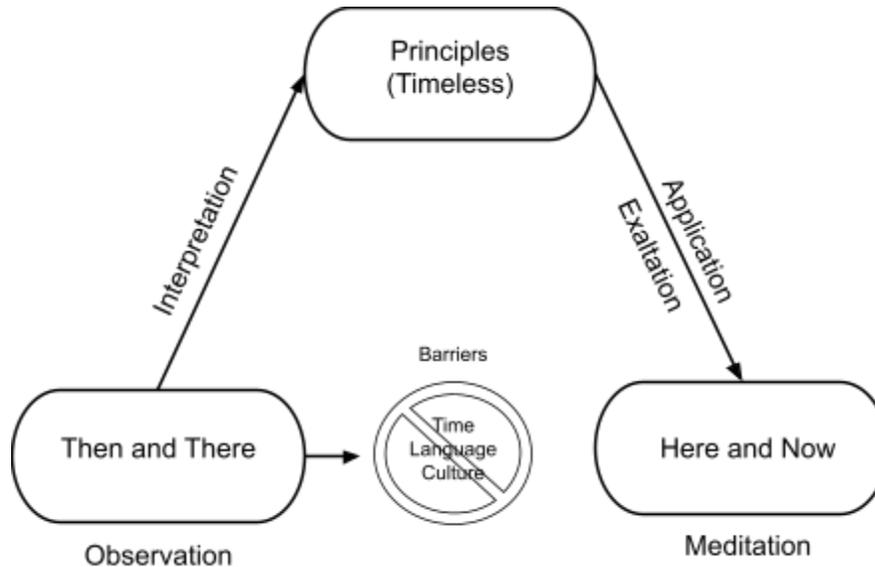
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How to Study the Bible

Using the Inductive Method



A Simple Method: Observation, Interpretation, Application (OIA)

Perhaps the most common error most people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Try to begin each time of Bible study with a prayer asking for God's help to understand His Word. For instance, *Heavenly Father, please 'open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law' (Psalm 119:18).*

Observation

What does the text say? The goal here is not to determine the meaning of the passage but to simply make observations. Ask descriptive questions: **Who** is involved - author speaker audience?, **What** is happening - events and sequences?, **Where** and **When** is this taking place? **Why** did the holy spirit inspire this passage?, **How** does it happen/unfold?

Also for consideration nouns and proper nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, repeated words, tenses, conjugations (i.e. and, but, for, since, therefore, yet, because, however)

Interpretation

Next, comes interpretation. We are trying to understand what the passages mean. Here are some helpful things to consider:

- What did the author mean to communicate to the **original audience**? Remember the bible can never mean what it never means. Context is key.
- What **type of literature** is it (biography, narrative, oratory, parable, poetry, prophecy, proverb, etc.)?
- Review the **content** (i.e. what you gathered in interpretation)
- What is the (literary, historical, cultural, geographical, theological) **context**?
- How does it **compare** to other scripture? Make use of **cross-references**.
- Lastly, **consult** other resources (i.e. commentaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, sermons, etc.)

Application

“Understanding is simply a means to a larger end - practicing biblical truth in day-to-day life. Observation plus interpretation without application equals abortion.” - Howard Hendricks, *Living by the Book*

Application is the practical implementation of what God has taught us through the passage. As Hames says, we are to be “doers of the Word, and not hearers only (James 1:22-25).” Try to keep your applications **SPAM. Specific, Personal, Attainable, & Measurable**. Here is another helpful acronym when thinking through how to apply a passage:

- Sin to avoid
- Promise to claim
- Example to follow
- Commands to obey
- Knowledge of God, myself and the world

VIDEO RESOURCES - PT 1 <https://youtu.be/0W5XKGSjLLU>, PT 2 <https://youtu.be/zQIIMChehR4>

How to Prepare and Lead a Small Group Bible Discussion

By: Steve Shadrach

The Preparation

Whether you are using published materials or creating your own Bible studies, you will want to be fully prepared to lead your study. Be diligent to “handle accurately the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:115) as you do your original investigation of each of the passages you’ll be discussing with your group. As you make your observations, interpretations, and applications of each passage, you’ll want to try to discover what I call the three T’s:

Then meaning --> Timeless Principle --> Today's Application

The Objective

As you look at the two or three main points you’ve discovered in your personal study of the passages, pick out one major point that matches up with a critical need your group has. This becomes your main objective of the discussion (i.e. the one major thing that dominates their minds as they leave the study). Most small group discussions (along with most sermons) send their members away with a whole host of points. No wonder most of us cannot even remember what last Sunday’s sermon was about!

The Questions

In this type of study, the format is discussion, not teaching! Jesus was a master at asking questions, and the key to good discussion will be the questions you design in advance. All the questions you create should inch your group closer and closer to discovering the objective of your study, Good questions should create self-discovery, so never tell anyone anything that they could discover themselves as a result of your well-worded questions. As great a question as you might craft, if it doesn’t push them towards the prayed-through objective you’ve set for the study, throw it out! The three kinds of questions you’ll want to create are:

1. The **Discovery** Question (Ask what?)

An open-ended, well-worded question introducing a new topic seeking to gather facts.

Example: From this passage, what does Jesus teach us about love?

2. The **Understanding** Question (Ask why?)

A more narrow, well-worded follow-up question, seeing to find the relevance and relationship of those facts. Example: Why would Jesus say there is more reward in loving our enemies, than our friends?

3. The **Application** Question (Ask how?)

A direct, well-worded final question challenging the participants to make those relevant facts a reality in their lives. Example: Think of one hard to live person in your life right now. How can you specifically show love to him or her this week?

Instead of allowing participants to just say, “My application is that I want to be a better Christian,” help them to SPAM it instead. Gently guide them to make it Specific, Personal, Achievable, and Measurable.

The common denominator in these three questions is the little phrase “well-worded.” This will require a lot of prayer, thought, and creativity. You’ll know whether it’s a good question the very moment it leaves your mouth! As you design each question, you’ll want to anticipate what their answers might be. Always be evaluating each question as to whether it helps them discover the particular truths from the Scriptures that you have discerned they need. The Navigators have developed “The Packaged Principle” where you, as the leader, bring more questions into the study than you have time to ask. View each question as a beautifully prepared present that you lay out in front of your group to proudly and carefully unwrap for them to feast on. Be sure to end the study on time, always carting out a few unopened presents (i.e. questions) with you, piquing their curiosity, and making them want to come back next week!

The Phases

There are three phases to each of the well-worded questions you have in your group. If you follow these three steps each time you throw out a question, you will truly be leading them into an exercise of self-discovery.

1. The **Launching** Phase

In a conversational tone, use one of your well-worded, open-ended questions to launch the discussion. Like a boat that's on the shore, you have to shove it off in order to get it out into the water. Ask the question with enthusiasm and anticipation, but after you ask it - zip the lip! As hard as it might the first few times, be quiet and wait for the answer. Don't be afraid of silence! Don't try to repeat or reword the question - give them time to think and reply. If they understand that this study is truly a discussion, and the ball is now in their court, their minds will get in gear to think through responses.

2. The **Guiding** Phase

Get excited about any responses that you get. Affirm their answers, but make sure to keep them on track. Ask questions like, "What does someone else think?" or "Julie, how would you respond to Katie's answer?" Remember, you are not the authority as much as you are the facilitator. Imagine the discussion like a beach ball and your job is to keep it up in the air, trying to involve as many people as you can, especially the quiet ones. Keep good eye contact with everyone. Ask follow-up questions, seeking to get the group into the Scriptures and headed towards the objective you've set up for that session.

3. The **Summarizing** Phase

Once you have gathered the quality and quantity of information you were looking for, it is time to wrap up and draw some conclusions. This is not a teaching time for the leader but rather a restating of what group members shared. You might even keep a pen and pad handy during Bible study so that during the summarizing phase you can refer back to comments that were shared, including the person who shared it. Everyone wants to feel included, and this will make your group members feel like they contributed. You want them to not only leave the study excited but come back next week too!

How to Lead 1-on-1

“5 R Coaching”

What is coaching?

- 1) Coaches come alongside to help - like Barnabas. By encouraging and challenging others, Barnabas empowered them for ministry. He may not have been in the starring role, but without him, many others would not have been able to accomplish the great things for God that they did.
- 2) The goal of coaching to help someone succeed.
- 3) What is success? It's finding out what God wants you to do and doing it. Given that definition, success will look different on different people.
- 4) Each person needs to discover for themselves what it is that God wants them to do. Coaches aid that process, but they don't direct it. Coaching is not about telling others what to do; it's about helping them discover it themselves.

“Coaching is the process of coming alongside a person or team to help them discover God's agenda for their life and ministry, and then cooperating with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda become reality.”

What is the process of coaching?

- 1) Every journey requires a good map. Coaching is no different. Coaches need an easy framework that helps them understand what needs to be accomplished in the coaching process. Many coaching models are not comprehensive; those that are comprehensive are not simple.
- 2) The coaching process consists of five basic phrases. Coaching relationships need to move through each phase and accomplish the necessary outcomes in order to be optimally effective.

Coaching Process

Relate - Establish coaching relationships and agenda

Reflect - Discover and explore key issues

Refocus - Determine priorities and action steps

Resource - Provide support and encouragement

Review - Evaluate, celebrate, and revise the plan

Relate - Establish coaching relationships and agenda

Coaching at its core is about qualities like trust, connection, support, and understanding. Sometimes coaches are tempted to skip over the relate stage in hopes of getting to the heart of things faster and accomplishing more. Don't - that strategy will backfire. Coaching that leaves out the relational element may move through agenda items faster, but will ultimately be ineffective. 99% of the time the people who have the deepest impact on our lives are those we know on a personal level, those who have taken the time to invest in developing a relationship with us. Forming a trusting, growing relationship will exponentially increase the significance and effectiveness of your coaching.

Reflect - Discover and explore key issues

The reflection process helps us figure out where we are. When people get lost in a shopping mall, most will go to a directory and look for the "you are here" sign. You cannot take any steps toward a goal unless you first know where you are starting from. Some point of reference is needed. In a coaching relationship, the reflect stage helps people figure out where they are in their lives and ministries and identify the most significant issues to address.

Refocus - Determine Priorities and Action Steps

After we've figured out where we are, the next step in the process is to ask, "where do we want to go from here?" This is the task of the refocus stage - gaining a sense of direction and forward movement. In order to do this, we need a long-range vision to see where God wants us to go in the future and short-range vision to see the individual steps it will take to get there. Effective action planning addresses the questions of who, what, where, when, and how.

Resource - Provide support and encouragement

Once we have discovered where we are and where we want to go, the next question is, "What do we need?" Answering this question is the primary task of the resource stage. Christian leaders often spend enormous amounts of time reinventing the wheel when many quality resources already exist that can save time, money, and energy. A good coach guides people in the direction of those resources that will be most useful to them given where they are and where they want to go.

Review - Evaluate, celebrate, and revise plans

The review stage allows us to look back over our progress and ask, "What has been accomplished?" Never underestimate the power of taking the time to look back over past accomplishments and celebrate them. That process can provide both a sense of satisfaction over a job well done and much-needed encouragement for the road ahead. The evaluation process also maximizes learning and provides opportunities to make mid-course corrections.

Power Coaching Questions

Relate

1. How are you doing?
2. Where are you now?
3. How can I be praying for you?
4. What do you want to address?
5. How can we work together?

Reflect

1. What can we celebrate?
2. What's really important?
3. What obstacles are you facing?
4. Where do you want to go?
5. How committed are you?

Refocus

1. What do you want to accomplish?
2. What are the possible ways to get there?
3. Which path will you choose?
4. What will you do? (who, what, where, when, how)
5. How will you measure your progress?

Resource

1. What resources do you already have?
2. What resources will you need to accomplish your goals? (people, finances, knowledge, etc.)
3. What resources are missing?
4. Where will you find the resources you need?
5. What can I do to support you?

Review

1. What's working?
2. What's not working?
3. What are you learning?
4. What needs to change?
5. What further training would be helpful?
6. What's next in our coaching relationship?

Accountability Questions

For Your D-Group Members

1. What is one thing that God has been teaching you this week? What has been the most helpful thing you learned this week?
2. How were your quiet times this week? How many quiet times were you able to have this week? Share something that stood out to you with the group.
3. Have you been praying every day for the people on your impact list? What steps have you been taking to get to know them better or share the gospel with them? Pray together for your impact lists if time allows.
4. Turn to someone and test each other on the memory verses from this week. Test each other on three random verses from your current daily pack.
5. How was your prayer life this week? How many days did you pray over your prayer list? Did you see any prayers answered?
6. What is one thing you are struggling with? How can we pray for you this week?

Zoom Tips and Tricks

1. Zoom app is up to date

- a. Zoom is constantly updating their security features so it is relatively important to make sure the app is always up to date

2. Everyone has the right link at the right time

- a. I know that this sounds so easy that it isn't worth mentioning, but is the mistake that is made most frequently in regards to Zoom meetings. There is nothing worse than trying to start your meeting with half of your group in a different room or unable to login.

3. Setup

- a. Check your lighting and your sound before the meeting begins. You always want more light on your face than on the back of your head. If you have an abundance of light behind you it will darken your face and you will be hard to see.
- b. If possible, use a headset with a microphone for listening and speaking. This will make you easier to hear and will cut down on feedback others hear from you.

4. Turn on gallery view

- a. Gallery view allows you to see up to 49 participants at one time on your screen.
- b. Take a moment to view everyone and make sure they are on videos and that they are unmuted (or at least know how to unmute themselves). This is easily done by having everyone briefly introduce themselves.

5. Take advantage of built-in features

- a. Mute and unmute all
 - i. This is a fantastic feature to use periodically throughout your meeting. Just click the participants icon at the bottom and you will see the option to mute/unmute.
- b. Screen sharing, annotations, and whiteboard
 - i. Take about 5 minutes before your meeting to login and play around with these screen sharing features. Utilizing them effectively can really improve your meeting.

6. Build in moments for feedback

- a. Whether it is through questions and responses or through chat, make sure that others feel invited to participate.

7. Pop-out the chat and participants window

- a. If you are the host, keeping up with chat and participants by popping them out of Zoom's interface and moving them to another screen makes managing the group much easier.

8. Optimize screen sharing

- a. When sharing a video always make sure to check the "optimize" box that comes up on the screen. This will improve your video quality.