

How to be effective studying the Bible

The reason for this study is simply because Jesus commissioned every disciple to go make disciples. We should grow in our effectiveness?

Have someone Quote: Matthew 28:18-20

Why are we here? Because 2000 years ago the disciples took this commission seriously and we... are the fruit of their convictions

Proverbs 24:11

*Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward **slaughter**.*

Proverbs 11:30- "He who wins souls is wise."

VISION: Wouldn't it be great if every disciple in the OC Region sat in at least one Bible Study with someone this year?

Four Practical ways you and I can be more effective:

1. Need for Training (John 12:47-50, Mark 1:16-18, Acts 14:1, 2:36-38)
2. The role of a Study series
3. The Approach to conversion
4. The Study Series (review it)

1. The Need for training:

John 12:47-50

- Jesus is the exact representation of God.
- Jesus needed training
 - Jesus was trained on what to say and how to say it
 - If Jesus (The Word of God) Himself needed Training, so do we

Mark 1:16-18

- The disciples needed to follow Jesus to be effective fishers of men
- They needed to learn what to say and how to say it

Acts 14:1

- They spoke so effectively that a great number were converted
- Why effective? They were trained and sought to train themselves.
- The Bible is our training manual to teach us what to say & how to say it!

Acts 2:36-41

- The Crescendo of the 1st sermon ever given to a non-Christian audience

- Those at Pentecost heard the truth of Jesus and correct doctrine, However...
- Peter has to speak many other words to warn them and to plead with them to save themselves from this corrupt generation

Q: Who taught Peter? Jesus taught him what to say and how to say it

Eph. 6:19-20

- Even Paul wants to be more effective and asked for prayer that he could communicate
- There is a human element in the delivery of the gospel
- We know from Isa. 55 that the word will not come back empty
- God wants us to learn what to say and how to say it
- We have a role in God's incredible plan

After Jesus came to earth, lead his ministry, died and rose again he entrusted his message to 12 unschooled and ordinary men. Wow!

- Jesus wanted to share the responsibility with us to reach the world
- Jesus believes in you and I
 - Illustration of fishing/ My son has grown to know how to fish
 - He learned to be effective
 - We should always want to learn and grow in our training

2. What is the role of the study series?

- To provide training that will allow any disciple, of any age, to go into the lost world equipped to explain God's plan of salvation from the Bible
- **Assurance**- A solid Biblical Foundation for new Christians life
- **Confidence**- You can feel good about presenting the information so you can focus on meeting the needs of the person
- **Training**- This helps our training Process
- **Unifying**- Everyone in OC on the same page (what study R U on)

3. The Approach

Q: What is the best approach to communicate the gospel? Statistically these are in order of effectiveness (from least to most effective)

1. Persuasive Approach- High Pressure car sales man approach
 - a. The persuader feels awesome
 - b. The learner may not have felt good
 - c. Produces head nodding as though the n/c agrees...but then you never see them again after the 1st study
2. Debate Approach- Back and Forth but very little listening
 - a. Don't go looking for a debate
 - b. Breeds pride

- c. The person studying doesn't feel great (WW3 example)
- 3. Teacher Approach
 - a. Teacher student model
 - b. Teacher provides info but does not get to heart
- 4. Quick to Listen Approach
 - a. A give and take approach
 - b. Humility, listening and respecting what the other person says
 - c. 1st Peter 3:15, James 1:19
 - i. Do this with gentleness and respect
 - ii. Respect their Spiritual journey (don't discount past religious experience)
 - iii. Quick to listen, slow to speak & slow to become angry
 - iv. Respect God's word and respect the person
 - d. Jesus was amazing at asking questions
 - e. Listening is the greatest pathway to the heart
 - f. Treat them like friends
 - g. They don't care how much you know...until they know how much you care
 - h. This approach is most effective
 - i. A good doctor asks a lot of questions
 - ii. Find out what makes them tick?
 - i. How do they view their Father/ Apply to God

FACT: The most effective way to get to a persons heart is by listening.

- Ask them how the verse affects them or what they got from it
- Do this after each verse to be sure they really understand

WRITE THIS DOWN:

Our goal is not to convey knowledge or win an argument. The goal is to build a heart of faith, love and connection with God and Men.

- IF your trying to win an argument, you will study the Bible with people but will have little impact

The goal is to instill and inspire a deep genuine heart for each of the study topics

- Don't just get through the studies
- This is not an information transfer time
- Don't just follow the studies in order mindlessly if they have other needs

The Heart is the wellspring of life. Pray & do your best to get to the heart!

Practicals:

1. **Atmosphere-** Conducive and comfortable (when I studied in McDonalds). I want people to feel safe (your house, their house)
2. How many disciples should be in the study (2 or 3 vs. whole small group at once) Although, at some point, everyone in your SG should be in the studies (avoid the umbilical cord relationship).
3. Learn the studies well/ Don't have the booklet (Col. 3:23)
4. Eye Contact – If someone else is talking...look them in the eyes (Never break away). When your talking look away every 20 seconds versus staring at them.
5. Don't sit too far away or too close. Sit across from the person you are studying with (re-arrange seating if necessary).
6. Remember **Proverbs 11:30**: *"He who wins souls is wise."*

4. Study series review (Review the study Series)

- The Word of God, Discipleship, Jesus' Church, Sin, The Cross, Repentance, Baptism, Sound Doctrine.
- Memorize the Word and Discipleship studies.
- Please start with this series in this order for training purposes
- Feel free to adapt it to meet persons needs

Imagine if every one of us decides to take this study series serious and study the Bible with at least one person this year! God will bless the OC Region!