

Leading a Bible Study

Preparation

1. What does it say? (Observation)
2. What does it mean? (Interpretation)
3. What does it mean for us? (Application)

First job: Pray!

Observation

- Read it!
- Analyse it
 - o Divide and Summarise (key)
 - Look for repeated words and phrases
 - Ask questions of the text!
 - Look for the intended effect
 - Instruction? Exhortation? Illustration?

Interpretation

- Context
 - o Within the book
 - Repeated ideas and links
 - Genre
 - o Within the Bible

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| <u>Outcome 1:</u> | Produce a summary theme sentence |
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Application (or implication)

- Three major 'types'
 1. Truths that need to be believed
 2. Attitudes to be fostered
 3. Behaviour to be modified
- The ABC of application
 - o Alert
 - o Bold
 - o Concrete
- Look in the mirror – apply it first to yourself
- Keep in line with the application of the passage
- Keep the main thing the main thing

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| <u>Outcome 2:</u> | Produce a summary Aim sentence |
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Execution

The importance of a starter as a 'hook'...

Attention grabbing, relevant to the study, open ended.

Observation:

Lots of time and space for freshness and imagination! How can we rub noses in text in an interesting way?!

- Direct Questions – Bread and butter
- 'Clean' text without any editorial divisions
- Buzz group summaries
- Summary tables (especially helpful when comparing characters or events)
- Everyday English paraphrase or retelling
- Pictures or diagrams or role-play
- Be imaginative and adventurous!

Interpretation

Now's the time for talking... how can we ask questions in a good way?

Must balance between freedom and direction

Freedom  -Direction

- Open not closed
- Short, simple, uncomplicated questions
- Keep noses down in the text - Need to be goal-driven
- Don't be afraid of silences!
 - o Wait
 - o Rephrase
 - o If necessary revert to closed questions and walk them through it

Application

When do we apply? Not always necessarily at the end.

- Can keep things fresh if constantly referred back to us
- However sometimes dangerous to apply to us without seeing how the story ends.

Remember the ABC: Alert, Bold, Concrete.

Try and think yourself into the shoes of your homegroup members and ask yourself:

- What are the obstacles to them not believing this truth
- Why might they find it hard to foster this attitude
- What are the objections they might have to modifying their behaviour in such a way? Where will it be hard for them to live like this passage tells us?

The better we know the people in our groups, the better we will be able to apply the Bible to them.