

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Bible study Teachers' training Manual Part 1

Understanding the Process / Mastering the Basic Skills

THE PROCESS

(a) Jesus' Gift: - It is Jesus who gives some of his people the ability to teach and then gives these people to the church as gifts to prepare God's people for works of service (Eph. 4:11-16). The apostle Peter - Jesus' gift to the early church (John 21:15-17). "Feed my lambs"... "Feed my sheep".

(b) Relationship: - All your teaching should spring from your relationship with God from your walk with HIM. Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught what the Father had taught him, "...I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me" (John 8:28, 7:16-18). Jesus lived in constant communion with His Father. Jesus was a man of the book and a man of prayer. His ministry began with prayer (Matt 4:1-11) and he lived a life of prayer (Matt. 14:22-23). We too should live in constant communion with God. We should read our Bible daily (Col. 3:16), and pray continually (Eph. 6:18). Recognise your weakness but depend on His strength – then you will be strong! (2 Cor. 12:10). Ask God to give you wisdom and He will (James 1:5). Look at Moses, he didn't want to speak but God said "I will help you speak and will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:10-12). Jesus remained in constant communion with the Father: we must remain in Jesus. "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit" **"APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING"** (John 15:5).

THE BASIC SKILLS

What are the basic skills in Bible study teaching?

Helping your students to understand God's Word.

Helping your students to apply God's Word to their lives

Helping your students to remember God's Word.

HELPING YOUR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

(1) Relate to your audience: - Capture your listeners' interest with something they will be able to relate to e.g. Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4:7-29).

(2) Use Examples: - Jesus used parables and the Holy Spirit often speaks in pictures and visions. *(e.g.) Tell stories:* - Stories are interesting to listen to and if told well, paint a picture in people's minds. We remember stories better than we do words.

(3) Ask questions: - Jesus asked people questions to make people think. Your lesson shouldn't be a monologue (i.e.) Long and uninterrupted speech (Luke 10:25-37).

(4) Use pair discussion pattern – Put your students in pairs or in groups to discuss certain question and come up with an opinion.

(5) Encourage your students to make their own notes. You could also produce a summary of the main points and photocopy them.

HELPING YOUR STUDENTS TO APPLY GOD'S WORD TO THEIR LIVES

When you are preparing your lesson, ask yourself “what is God saying in this passage? How should I respond to this teaching? Has God already spoken to me about this in the past? Can I share my personal experience here or someone else's experience?

Having shared your insight, ask your students what they have learnt from the passage and how they can apply it in their lives.

HELPING YOUR STUDENTS TO REMEMBER GOD'S WORD

Remember to repeat the main points.

(a) Repetition: - Tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you have told them!

(b) Invite students to retell the story.

© Ask questions – use a quiz (formed with the content of your topic).

(d) Use Homework: - These help your students to focus on the main points in the lesson and can be studied before the next lesson.

(e) Use Examples: - give your students examples that will remind them of a lesson or of a series of lessons.

(f) Memory verses: - Give your students main Bible truths as could be found in your text to memorize.

CONCLUSION

The process begins with Jesus who calls us and equips us to teach and gives us as gifts to his church. As we walk and commune with Jesus the Lord feeds and teaches us so that we, in turn, can feed his sheep and lambs. The process does not end with our Bible study lesson – our lives are to be living lessons as we are called not only to teach God's Word, but to put it into practice, living as examples to the flock (I Tim 4:16; James 3:1).