

# Leading a Bible Study <sup>1</sup>

This sheet is intended to help you lead a small group Bible study. By preparing questions about a passage in the Bible, you can help the group discover what God is saying and how God wants us to apply that message.

## **I. Preparing the Study**

- A. Ask God to give you insight and understanding into the passage and that you and your group would be changed by your study of it.
- B. Read the passage several times, and if you have different translations, read those also.
- C. Try to identify the main theme of the passage and summarize it in one sentence. Don't try to cover everything in the passage; choose one important aspect and focus on that.
- D. The questions below (observation, interpretation, application) will help you in your own study of the passage.
- E. Then come up with about 6-10 questions to help the group get into the passage. The questions should also fall into the 3 basic categories.
- F. Come up with questions which are clearly tied to the text and which build upon one another.

## **II. Observation Questions** - what does the passage say?

- A. What kind of literature is this (e.g. history, poetry, prophecy, narrative, etc.)?
- B. What are the basic facts in this passage?
- C. Who, what, where, why and when?
- D. What do you notice about the way the passage is written?
- E. What repetitions, comparison and contrasts, cause and effect, logical constructions are present?
- F. What comes before and after this passage? (What is the context?)

## **III. Interpretation Questions** - what does the passage mean? What were the author's purposes?

- A. Are there any words or phrases which need definition?
- B. What is the significance of the observations we've made?
- C. Is there a progression or logical development in this passage?
- D. What is the main point or summary of the passage? What was the author trying to communicate?

## **IV. Application Questions** - how do we apply this passage in our everyday lives?

- A. What issues does this passage raise which are still issues today?
- B. What does this passage say about God, people, sin, salvation, or life?
- C. Is God giving us a promise to claim? A command to obey? A warning to heed? Guidance for our lives?
- D. How and where can we apply this in our lives?
- E. How does this passage challenge our beliefs, values, and lifestyle?

## **V. Leading the Discussion**

- A. Keep in mind that different groups need different amounts of guidance.
- B. Help people discover the Bible for themselves.
- C. If someone doesn't understand your question, be prepared to rephrase the question differently.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from "Using the Bible in Groups," by Roberta Hestenes