

BibleStudy.Tips

Leader's Guide

After his resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples the following at the end of Matthew's gospel: "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20). Bible study is vital for fulfilling this command. First, you cannot make disciples unless you are first a disciple. Second, you must know God's Word in order to teach it to others. Both of these require Bible study.

That is why I am passionate about Bible study; it's because I am passionate about making disciples. The two go hand in hand. The fruitful disciple is one who is committed to God's Word and lives it out in their own life, and then helps others do the same. Paul understood this concept well when he told churches to follow him as he followed Christ. How do you follow and know Christ? By studying your Bible.

This leader's guide is a resource to help you get the most out of the BibleStudy.Tips workbook in a group setting. While the workbook is designed to be used for one's personal Bible study, it is at its best when it is being taught to a group of others, equipping them to study God's Word. You have this leader's guide in your hands because you believe that too, and for that I praise God!

While the material speaks for itself and can be taught as-is, I provide you with outlines for working through each Bible study method in a group setting. You will have everything you need to teach these methods to others. Also, this workbook is designed to take 8-weeks, but don't feel like you need to stick to that pace. If you find your group needs more time on any given lesson, slow down and camp out on that method for another week or two. It's more important to understand the methods & know how to use them than it is getting through this book in a given timeframe. Remember, Bible study is a lifelong journey & we want to make sure everyone is well equipped to succeed on that journey.

Finally, if you ever have any questions about any of these methods or how best to teach them, feel free to reach out. Email me at larosa@biblestudy.tips and I will do my best to answer your questions & point you in the right direction.

LaRosa Johnson

WEEK 1

Bible Journaling

Main Objective: To get to know the people in the group by sharing personal testimonies and to introduce the concept of Bible journaling.

Optional Icebreaker: Go around the room and ask everyone to briefly share what their biggest struggle is in understanding the Bible and what they hope to get out of this workbook.

Outline:

- Bible journaling slows us down so we can get more from God's Word
- There are 4 reasons why we should journal
 - Helps us remember
 - Teaches us to feed ourselves from Scripture
 - Leaves a legacy
 - Keeps you from checking boxes
- Explain the steps of H.E.A.R.T. journaling
- Read a short passage (a verse or two) & have everyone do a short journal on that passage (James 1:22-23 is a good passage)

Prayer Prompt: Have someone in the group pray for everyone's ability to get the most out of the coming weeks as they all learn how to study God's Word.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Since this is the first meeting, encourage everyone to journal at least 3 times in the coming week. They can use the passages in the workbook or choose their own. Tell them to be prepared to share one of their entries the next time you meet. Also encourage them to read appendices 1 through 3.

WEEK 2

Cross-Reference Study

Main Objective: To learn how to effectively use cross-references in Bible study so as to let the Bible interpret itself.

Optional Icebreaker: Have a few people share their journals from the previous week. Ask how they felt about the journaling process.

Outline:

- Explain what a cross-reference is
- Cross-references let the Bible speak for itself
- Outline the steps of a cross-reference study
- Pick a passage to study as a group (I would recommend sticking with a passage like James 1:22-23 that is already familiar)

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to give everyone in the group wisdom as they study the Word. God promises to give it to those who ask and the Holy Spirit is our teacher.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Have your group complete at least two cross-reference studies for the coming week, and encourage them to also continue journaling each day.

WEEK 3

Bible Survey Study

Main Objective: To get an overview of a book of the Bible so you can understand its structure, themes, and concepts.

Optional Icebreaker: What is a decision you've made or something you've done in life where you acted without first thinking or weighing the consequences?

Outline:

- One of the best ways to study the Bible is one book at a time
- Explain what a Bible survey is
- Explain the benefits of a survey study
- Explain the tools needed for the study
- Outline the six steps
- Use the book of Philemon as a short book to study together as a group to complete a quick Bible survey

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to help you see the big picture of Scripture as you study. Pray that he begins to reveal the cohesiveness of the Bible.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Complete a couple of the Bible surveys in the workbook. Have them be prepared to share their summary of one of the books they studied.

WEEK 4

Topical Study



Main Objective: To learn how to answer the question, “what does the Bible say about XYZ?”

Optional Icebreaker: Ask the group to name some things they have always wondered what the Bible says on that topic. Ask if they ever got that answer.

Outline:

- Why topical studies matter
- Explain the tools needed for a topical study (especially what a concordance is)
- Outline the steps of a topical study
- Pick one of the topics from the ice breaker and begin working through a topical study as a group

Prayer Prompt: Pray for the group as they continue to dive into Scripture and make it a daily habit. Pray that they would begin to discover more of the fruit that comes with a consistent life of Bible engagement.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Have everyone in the group study one of the topics they mentioned in the ice breaker & study that in the coming week. Tell them to be prepared to share what the Bible says on that topic.

WEEK 5

Character Study

Main Objective: To learn how to understand God's working in the life of the Bible's many characters

Optional Icebreaker: Who is the most famous person you've ever met in person?

Outline:

- The people in the Bible are real people with real stories
- What is a character study?
- Reasons to do a character study
- The tools needed to do a character study
- Outline the steps
- Work through the example character study as a group

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would reveal himself through his Word as everyone studies. Ask God to show how he is working in each of our lives as we daily live the Christian life and how we can best learn from those we study in Scripture.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Ask everyone to study their favorite Bible character in the coming week & to do a character study. Then be prepared to share a summary of that character & how God worked in their life, as well as any personal application they took from it.



WEEK 6

Word Study

Main Objective: To learn how to study the Bible using the original languages without learning Greek or Hebrew.

Optional Icebreaker: Have you ever learned a foreign language and were you ever fluent in it? Is there a language you wish you could speak fluently?

Outline:

- Language is always changing. This is why word studies are important.
- The goal of a word study is to understand biblical concepts & word usage
- Explain the difference between a word studies & topical studies
- Go over the necessary tools (and how Bible software makes this much easier)
- Outline the steps
- Walk through the example study as a group

Prayer Prompt: Pray for the perseverance to do what it takes to develop consistent Bible study habits, so that you can grow closer to God.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Have your group do a word study this week from any passage they read and to come ready to share their summary of that study. Encourage them to continue journaling as well as a regular habit.

WEEK 7

Inductive Bible Study

Part 1

Main Objective: To learn the inductive Bible study method and how to bring all the other methods together into a single study.

Optional Icebreaker: Who is your favorite fictional detective or investigator? Why?

Outline:

For the next two weeks, I recommend giving a brief overview of the the method and spending the majority of your time working through an inductive study together as a group. I would even suggest splitting it up by covering observation this week, and interpretation & application next week.

- Explain what inductive Bible study is
- We study to pull information out of the text. We don't come to it with our preconceived ideas of what we want it to say
- Observation helps us understand what the Bible says
- Interpretation helps us understand what it means
- Application helps us apply it to our lives
- Explain the steps of observation
- Work through the steps of observation using the example study or your own passage as a group

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to help you focus on the Word without distraction. Pray that he help you understand Scripture so you can internalize it & use it to live a life pleasing to him.

Follow-Up Suggestions: To save time the following week & to have more discussion, divide up the topical & word studies among the members of your group, and have them bring back their summaries for the interpretation portion of the study.

WEEK 8

Inductive Bible Study

Part 2

Main Objective: To learn the inductive Bible study method and how to bring all the other methods together into a single study.

Optional Icebreaker: What has been your biggest takeaway from going through the workbook? Do you have a favorite Bible study method?

Outline:

- Recap last week's information
- Explain the steps of interpretation
- Work through your passage as a group using the information everyone did as homework
- Explain the steps of application
- Brainstorm as a group application that can be had from the passage
- Summarize your study as a group

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would bring you closer to him as you study his Word. Also pray that he would use your study to help you be a better disciple and disciple maker.

Follow-Up Suggestions: Encourage the group to continue working through the exercises in the workbook on their own so they can cement how to do each of these studies. Also encourage them to begin teaching these methods to someone else, whether it be another group, a friend, or a family member.