

How to Lead a Bible Study – Part 4

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I. Introduction.

- A. The parts of Bible study are discovery, understanding and application.
- B. Application is the most important part. (Ephesians 4:13)

II. Reasons applications are poor.

- A. The human heart resists change. (Luke 10)
- B. A lack of understanding of what application means, which is obedience.
- C. Pressure from society to conform to relative standards. (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5)
- D. Substituting application for interpretation.
- E. Selective application.
- F. Substitution of an emotional experience for a volitional act.
- G. Interpreting the Bible according to one's own preconceived ideas. (Matthew 16:33)

III. Nuts and bolts of Bible study.

- A. Do not call it a study because the word has a negative connotation.
- B. People can be recruited from all over.
- C. It sometimes helps when the group already has an affinity for each other.
- D. A time, date and place needs to be set.
- E. Have materials available.
- F. Plan for it.
- G. Prepare for interruptions.
- H. Set objectives and goals.
- I. Do not assume one's salvation.
- J. Look out for those who are hungry for more and hungry to serve.

IV. Qualities needed for a Bible study leader.

- A. Enthusiasm.
- B. A willingness to pay the price in preparation.
- C. Teaching by questions.
- D. An ability to redirect people who talk all the time.
- E. A spirit of encouragement.
- F. Creativity.
- G. A willingness to listen.
- H. No fear of silence.
- I. Consistency with what one teaches.

Application questions

1. What can we do with Bible study to ensure attention is given to application and that it succeeds?

2. Why do we need to plan for Bible study?

3. How can you grow as a Bible study leader? How would your Bible study group evaluate you based on the qualities listed above?
