

Paradigm Discipleship

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The purpose of this resource is to provide some guidance for you as you encourage your disciple to develop a strong devotional relationship with God.

The following resource is a guide that provides some basic structure to developing a session on the importance of studying the Word of God.

We encourage you to do your own study, using this resource as a guide, to develop a learning experience for you and your disciple that will help you both move deeper in your desire to dig into the depths of the Word of God.

Digging for Depth and Understanding

Opening question: Is studying the Bible for everybody?

- *Obviously a yes or no questions – so dig deeper into the answer.
- *If they answer “yes”, ask them why most people don’t study the Bible for themselves.
- *If they answer “no”, ask them why they don’t think that everybody should study the Bible for themselves.

Follow up question: Let’s assume you agree that everybody should study the Bible. What are the reasons and benefits of studying the Bible?

- *Lot’s of good answers here. Your disciple should be able to come up with some of the possible answers we’ve listed for you below.
 - *Answer questions or challenges posed by friends.
 - *Develop our own convictions and correct our own assumptions that are not Biblical.
 - *We all think we know what the Bible says, until we actually begin studying it for ourselves.
 - *Go deeper into the meaning of a verse or passage.
 - *Increase the nutritional value of what we are feeding our soul.
 - *The Bible talks about our food being every word that comes from the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3). It therefore makes sense that the deeper we penetrate into the Word, the more nourishment we will receive.
 - *Prepare ourselves for a group study (To lead or simply to participate fully).

Study Question: What does the Bible say about studying and knowing scripture?

- *Let your disciple try to come up with passages or verses that commend study or learning – you might learn something.
 - *Some suggestions to add to your own list of verses:
 - Romans 12:1-2 – We are transformed by the renewing of our minds.
 - 1 Peter 2 – The Word is nourishment.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – The Word is effective in training a disciple.
 - John 14 & 15 – Love for God is obeying His commands.
 - Acts 17:11 – The Bereans were commended as noble for their study of scripture.

Basics of Study (of any subject): Concentration – Comprehension – Reflection

- *Below are the essential elements of study – but it should be noted that the essential heart attitude in study is humility and the goal is obedience. We must humbly submit as a learner to the authority of the Word, and bow our wills to the truth that we find (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- *Talk about each of these 3 elements with your disciple – the benefits of each – the results of each.
 - *Concentration: Centers the mind; systematically evaluates a topic, a word, a verse. In concentration we compare a topic, verse, or word with other similar topics, verses or words in the Bible – we interpret the Bible with the Bible.
 - *Comprehension: focuses on the understanding of a truth. We hold ourselves in concentration until we break through to comprehension.

*Reflection: brings us to see things from God's perspective. Reflection is the most important of the 3 basic elements of study. Comprehension defines *what* we are studying – reflection defines the *significance* of what we are studying.

Studying is essentially answering a question or questions.

Ask your disciple if they have ever researched an answer to a question they have had in the Bible. What did they do? How did they know where to look?

*Here is the how:

*1st Step: Observation (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How)

*Ask questions like: "What is the context? Who is the audience? When was it written? Etc."

*Use your Bible's concordance or cross-references to find other similar verses.

*Learn to use an exhaustive concordance and topical resources to do complete comparison research.

*Interpretation – What does it mean?

*Lot's of comparison and prayer will get you through to understanding.

*Learn to use commentaries to back up your interpretations.

*Chances are if a bunch of Biblical scholars don't agree with your interpretation, you may be out on a limb.

*Application – What is God saying to me (us) in this moment from this passage?

*This also takes lots of prayer and reflection.

*Commentaries can be helpful, but the best guide in this stage is the Holy Spirit.

*Ps 119:105-106 talks about the guiding power of the Word of God and how we should follow it – as mentioned before, this is the ultimate goal of study, to humbly submit to God's Word.

Resources:

*In this day and age, just about anything you need is online. This is both great and a danger. Be aware that not everything you find on the internet is good and true.

*The best site I have found so far is: crosswalk.com.

*Some good books to help you learn how to study:

*12 Dynamic Bible Study Methods by Warren

*Living by the Book by Hendricks

****IMPORTANT NOTE**** From this day forward, regularly challenge your disciple to study the Bible themselves. Use learning moments in your meetings to suggest that they research that particular thought or topic for themselves further and ask them to present the findings in a future meeting. It is imperative that you help them develop the habit of studying the Bible.