

DIP BIBLE STUDY

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WHAT IS IT?

A method of studying the Bible in small groups that starts with (D)escribing the text, and then drawing out (I)nsights about life and then sharpening the insight to a (P)unchline to preach.

Ideal size: 8 people

Range: 5-15 people

Text length: About 5-15 verses

Materials: A Bible or handout of the text



D

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEXT

- Narrative text: Play the movie
- Non-narrative: "What does it mean?" Focus on the flow of the argument

I

INSIGHT ABOUT LIFE

- Draw out an insight/lesson
- Imagine scenarios where this lesson applies

P

PUNCHLINE TO PREACH

- Sharpen the lesson into a "preaching" point or something that challenges the world system

SAMPLE 1-HOUR TIMELINE

10 MIN: Personal study

40 MIN: Crowdsourced Bible study

5 MIN: Personal Writing (Consolidating Lessons & Application)

5 MIN: Conversational Prayer (Using What We Learned)

Example: Bleeding Woman (Mark 5)



D: She was an outcast too ashamed to go to Jesus directly, but he calls her "daughter."

I: Our self-worth should not come from the world's view of us but come from how Jesus views us.

P: Whatever the world calls you, whatever you call yourself, Jesus says, "You are my daughter. You are my son."

Example: Aroma of Christ (2 Corinthians 2)

D: We are the "aroma of Christ" - and yet that same aroma produces "life" to some and "death" to others.

I: The same person or thing can be received in completely opposite ways. (ex: receiving pity/mercy) To one person, it can be life-giving. To another, it can be humiliating and maddening.

P: Our response to Jesus is a judgment upon us. -- OR -- We need to become okay with the fact that some will respond to us in very negative ways.

GUIDELINES

- **No one has all the answers**, including the facilitator. It is crucial that everyone "try out" a thought by saying it, and feel free to retract it.
- **You don't need to build all 3 layers every time.** It's fine to move on after 1 or 2 layers. Don't struggle for too long.
- **Try to go verse-by-verse.** If needed, you can work through 2-3 verses at a time, but try to stay sequential.
- **Use commentaries** when stuck (i.e. ESV Study Bible commentary)

PREPARATION



| DO | DON'T |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very briefly familiarize yourself with the content of the passage (10-20 minutes)• You can circle words and mark up your Bible to trigger memory | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare an outline (People will just wait for you to teach)• Prepare fully-developed points to share (This will reduce their eagerness to participate) |

SETUP



| DO | DON'T |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit in a circle or around a table - the less formal the better • Have a notebook to jot down what people say (if it helps to listen) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit in lecture style • Have a screen to look at (But having paper in the middle is ok) |

FACILITATION



| DO | DON'T |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge the text at times - to encourage people to speak (e.g., "Is Jesus playing hard to get? What's going on?") • When stuck, encourage someone to say the most plain/boring thing and then ask others to build on it • "Try out" ideas that are half-baked and be willing to take back what you said if it doesn't go anywhere. Seeing the facilitator do this can foster livelier discussion as people feel permitted to share half-baked thoughts • Ask people with knowledge/memory about the passage to share what they know for the background • Listen to & summarize what people have said, and build from there • Provide affirmation when the group lends on a good insight, lesson, or a preaching point, and give people time to write it down • Feel free to contribute to the discussion with your own thoughts or construct the final punch layer if it is built on top of the lessons that group came up with. People will appreciate a poignant summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask personal application questions. (e.g., "What are some ways we can be like this?") Instead, build the point as a social critique (e.g., "What are some ways that the world can be like this?") THEN, you can use that to convict (e.g., "I think that's true of us as well, right?") You can expound on that, but do not ask them to share • Be dismissive of strange or off-topic points. Instead, roll with it. You can ask others, "Is that how others read it?" Or you can acknowledge the truth contained in that idea & move away by saying: "That's a valid point in general, but it's hard to build from THIS passage, because _____. But that's good point" • Stop people who share repeatedly. In this format, they will share short snippets, and you can ask others to build on that • Settle for unconvincing platitudes or jargony statements. Challenge it to make it more convincing / concrete. If the group can't make it more convincing, just move on |

WRAP-UP

| DO | DON'T |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just call time when the time runs out and end the Bible study | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feel the need to provide a nice "wrap-up" or exhortation |

HELPFUL SAMPLE PHRASES FOR THE FACILITATORS**D**

"I don't get it, what does this mean?"
"Who knows something about ____? Can you tell us?"
"Okay, that's one way to read it, how do others read it?"
"Let's go with that and see where it goes."

I

"What is the lesson about life that we can derive from this?"
"What are some examples of this lesson?"
"[Summarize what others said]. Can someone build on that?"
"How does that challenge the world's default mindset?"

P

"Can we try to capture what we've been saying in one sentence?"
"I like that! Let's try to sharpen it and preach it."