

# How to do a bible study- Part 4

## Greetings

Hey, very good evening. Thank you for joining us for our last session in our CEP, Christian Education Program on how to do a Bible study. It has been fun for me conducting this for you. And I hope this very last session will be kind of a good wrap up for all that we have learned together, and that it will be the final push off for you to embark on a journey to doing good Bible study for others. I want to remind you that doing good Bible study is so important for evangelism for discipleship, it's an essential skill for a lifetime. And it really is not complicated just consists of four principles, content, clarity, connection, and conviction. I spent the bulk of our time looking at content because I think that's the most important right? Nothing more important than giving to people what God wants to give in the first place. But I would say giving good Bible study is more than just content, it involves three other principles. Today's session, very short, because I'm just going to go very quickly about clarity, connection, and conviction.

## Clarity

The first thing is about clarity. I think that if you have a lot of content, but you are overloading people, and you're speaking in such a way that they can't understand, you have wasted your efforts in studying and preparing. So, it is very important to be clear, so that people can understand and absorb and learn really well. So how can you and I achieve at clarity? How can people sit into the Bible study and say, Wow, that is so simple, that is so clear. Wow, that's helpful for me. How do you do that? Well, just two things I want to share with you.

## Clarity: Material saturation

Number one, to be clear, you've got to be clear yourself, okay? For people to understand you clearly, you got to be clear yourself. And to be clear yourself, you've got to arrive at material or content saturation. What I mean by that is that you got to be able to think through and understand and digest what you want to teach clearly. So, this cannot come about if you're not familiar with the subject, if you're not reading and learning about the subject. So content, or material saturation is very important. In other words, I'm saying you've got to spend enough time reading, thinking, researching, there is no shortcut. So, it's a simple principle, but it's hard to do. You've got to spend a lot of time refining and thinking through and practically that's what I do every week when I give the message of God in our sermons. Digging up the content takes a long time, takes a lot of effort. But after I've had all the content, I don't teach every content, just as it is. I take time to digest it, I take time to think about it, I take time to simplify it. I want to spend a lot of time thinking through this so that I'm so saturated with it. It's so packed in my mind that now I'm confident that I have a good handle of this subject. I start to simplify and then teach it in a simple way, I hope. So, there's no shortcut. You need to spend a lot of time just familiarizing yourself with the content, then you'll be clear. If you're not familiar, you will not be clear, simple.

### Clarity: Let them ask!

A second thing that may help in a Bible study which you can't quite do in a sermon, but in a Bible study you can is this instead of opening the Bible right away and say, let's go verse one, verse two, verse three, verse four, verse five, and you just ramble on and on. I would suggest to you why don't you start with this? Hey, any questions you have from this passage? So, what I've learned is, if I were to do a Bible study, what I like, is to tell the person in advance what we are going to study. I want to give him the challenge to study the Bible himself, and to write down the questions he may have. So that when we meet up, I don't start with what I have in mind. I start with him because a Bible study ultimately is to serve Him. And I want to serve Him in the questions he has in his mind. So, I let him ask, and then I answered the questions. You know what, if you could answer a person's questions, you will be clear. He will feel that he's helped. He will feel that this session is clarifying, it's illuminating, because the questions are solved. But on the other hand, if you don't let him ask and all you do is to ramble on, he may feel that he doesn't understand anything, because the critical parts where he can't connect is still disconnected.

So, two simple things to clarity. Number one, aim to study the content really well be fairly familiar. And then number two, start with the person and his questions. Now, maybe at the end of the questioning, there will be enough time for you to then share your additional insights. And you can now share your additional insights, because you are familiar with the passage. And you don't have to feel like you have to start from verse one, again. Alright, so simple tips, I would give, be very familiar and start with people's questions. That's for clarity.

### Connection

The third principle is that of connection. Now this connection here is how can I connect the truth to this person's life because we aim not just for information, we aim for transformation, and to help that person be able to not just leave the Bible's truth in the head, but to bring it down to the heart and then to live out in their lives, I need two things.

### Connection: Illustration

Number one, illustration. Illustration is not drawing. Illustration is example. Sometimes truths are very difficult to grasp, if you don't give some examples in life. So, it is important to give examples, and the Bible talks about examples. So let me put it this way. Maybe you want to help someone understand sin. You read about the technical definition, explanation of sin, but you know something, an example of sin will be very helpful. An example of sin might be an instance you got angry with someone, an example you were lustful, or an illustration can be an illustration of a disease. You talk about leprosy and how leprosy is an example of sin. And the Bible talks about that. You use examples to open up understanding and to start to be able to absorb it into the system, illustrations are very useful and powerful. You will find that in many sermons that we give in our church, we use illustrations. Now, they are for the purpose to help people better understand and obey God's truth. So, you want to connect truth to people's life? A good window, a good bridge will be examples. All right?

### Connection: Application

Number two, to help in connection, you need to help think about application. How does this truth apply to my life? How is this truth that you're teaching me in Bible study relevant for me? How is this life changing? I don't want just to gather facts; a lot of people say that I want to change. So, you need to help people apply. And there are many passages in the Bible that on the surface may not be very directly relevant to life. But that's where you need to think further. So, for example, I mentioned, for example, in Genesis five, how that is a chapter of death, God has used death, to be a reminder to sin. So, what I would say my application is this, God uses painful things, to remind us of sin, to remind us of the need to repent. So, my application is maybe there are some difficulties in people's lives. And it's not because God is unkind, but God wants to use painful things, like a warning, so that they may do something about it so that they may turn and repent and believe and be saved. So that's the application help people understand that there may be difficulties in their lives. But it is not that God is wasting that pain, you see that? It's about application. So, it takes time to think how this truth can apply to life.

### Conviction

Finally, I just want to end with conviction. You know, what's the hardest thing of being a Bible study teacher? It is not content, it's not clarity, it's not connection, that takes time, that takes thinking, that takes some brains to work. But the hardest part is conviction, the heart and your life. You see, the worst thing about being a Bible teacher, is that you're an expert at teaching the technicalities and the truths, but you live a wicked life. So, I would encourage you, you want to be a good Bible study teacher? How to do a good Bible study. Ask God to help you be convicted about the truths you're reading day by day, to obey him, to walk in holiness, to be passionate about the gospel, to know His love and to love Him, so that you can be the channel through which he can flow. This is so important as a parent. This is so important as a care group leader, as a discipleship group leader, as Bible study group leader, as a pastor, we need to be a people of conviction, who hold the truth in our hearts, and live that out in our lives.

### Conclusion and Prayer

That's all I'm going to say. And I hope this four parter has been helpful to you. Again, I wish you well, that this will set you on a journey of a lifetime of improving in skills in Bible study that you may serve God in evangelism and discipleship really well. May God bless you. Once again. I look forward to seeing you right after this in our Q&A session. Thank you for joining me, let's close in a word of prayer. Father, thank You for this time we can study your work together. And I pray that you will bless your people, that we will be good students of the word and most of all, obedient people of the world. Thank you. We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.