



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

LEADING BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION III

NOTES

Developing the Outline

Discussion Outline

Most well-written Bible Study material has a basic outline written into it. In leading Bible discussion it is wise to use that outline as the framework for your discussion outline. The **first step** is to study the outline of the study very carefully and record it on your paper. For example see this week's Bible Study on The Authority of God's Word.

Example:

Title *The Authority of God's Word*

Outline I. The Author of the Scriptures
 II. Jesus' View of Scripture
 III. The Reliability of Scripture
 IV. The Sufficiency of Scripture
 V. Applying the Bible to Your Life

Discussion Questions

The **second step** is to do the lesson very carefully yourself thinking as you do it about various questions you might use in the discussion. Your questions have to do with:

- **Discovery** ***What does it say?***
- **Understanding** ***What does it mean?***
- **Correlation** ***Where else is this taught in
Scripture?***
- **Application** ***How can I apply this to my life?***

Discussion Objective

The **third step** is to develop an objective for the discussion. The objective is a statement which tells what you hope to accomplish in the discussion session.

Example

To help my disciples understand the material on the authority of God's Word and work with them so they will apply it to their lives and teach it to *their* disciples. Also teach them how to develop a set of discussion questions on this lesson.

Discussion Introduction

In *step four*, you are ready to begin to write the introduction to your discussion outline. This could be a short paragraph which you would use to introduce the topic under consideration and to direct everyone's attention to the discussion. You can write your own introduction, or if there are introductory remarks in the Bible Study material, you may use those by reading them aloud to the group or by asking a group member to read them aloud.

Example

What would you do if obedience to the Scriptures jeopardized your possessions, your career, your family, or your life? Would you remain loyal to God? How would you decide what to do? Or have you, perhaps, decided already? In this chapter you will examine the authority of the Bible and its reliability in helping us make decisions.

Developing the Discussion Questions

The *fifth step* in planning the outline is to formulate questions for each major heading in the study. Remember, in this lesson we are using the Bible Study for this week's ETS chapter, entitled, *The Authority of God's Word*.

First Heading: The Author of the Scriptures**Discovery**

What did you discover about the authority of the Scripture from your own study?

(Remember in writing your discovery question you must frame the question to encompass all the verses under the heading. In this example, students may answer from any of the verses contained in questions one through three.)

Understanding

What does it mean "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my mouth"?

(Ask a question on one of the verses that people might not know the meaning of. That is, they read the verse and know what it says, but they may not comprehend the implications of the particular truth under examination.)

Correlation

Why is it important for us to understand the Scriptures were “God-breathed”?

(Relate these truths to other parts of the Bible that would shed light on the subject. Here, we are helping students learn to allow Scripture to amplify Scripture. A good Bible discussion leader has as his objective to help students put the various pieces of their individual study together with other students’ discoveries to form a cohesive whole.)

Application

How can these truths help you in trying to resolve questions and issues you are dealing with personally?

(This question is designed to help people become “doers of the Word,” rather than “hearers only.” Application is the key to a changed life, resulting in true discipleship, which is the end objective of The Great Commission. Central to Jesus’ Commission is the factor of obedience. Many teach people to “observe”—but Jesus said we are His disciples if we “obey.” There is no obedience without application! Discovery, Understanding and Correlation are “observation steps”; Application is the “obedience step.”)

Second Heading: Jesus’ View of Scripture**Discovery**

What did you learn about Jesus’ view of Scripture?

Understanding

What does it mean when Jesus said “I have come to fulfill the Law”?

Correlation

What are some of the Laws Jesus fulfilled?

Application

How can Jesus’ example of using the Scripture help you? Give an example.

Third Heading: The Reliability of the Scriptures**Discovery**

What did you discover about the reliability of God’s Word?

Understanding

What did Peter mean when he said, “We have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...”?

Correlation

What event is Peter making reference to in 2 Peter 1:16-18?

Application

How can the Reliability of the Bible help you personally. Be specific by giving an example.

Fourth Heading: The Sufficiency of Scripture

Now, using the examples above, complete the Discussion Outline by writing the Discovery, Understanding, Correlation and Application questions for this heading. Use the sample form included with this lesson.

Fifth Heading: Applying the Bible to Your Life

As above, fill in questions on the Discussion Outline for this final Topic Heading.

Conclusion

The last section of the leader's Discussion Outline is the conclusion. In this section the leader summarizes the main points of the discussion and encourages students to make specific and personal applications in the coming week. During the conclusion section, time would be spent in prayer for the applications, and the next week's homework assignment should be given, so the students understand clearly what they will be doing in completing the last two sections.

Schedule Time

Plan how long you are going to spend on each point in your outline and add a time frame to the discussion.

Using the Discussion Outline

Remember that your outline is simply a guide for the discussion—a tool to help you, not a structure to imprison you. If the discussion does not follow the plan exactly or if you are unable to complete the discussion of every point on the outline, don't worry. Give the Holy Spirit the freedom to teach the truths. He wants to teach even if it means spending a little longer on a particular question.

Be sure to review your lesson plan before the group meets especially the objective and chapter outline. Pray over each section and question. Then trust God to lead!

Sample Form

Enclosed is a sample copy of the Discussion Outline form to be used in your homework assignment. Study this carefully! Careful preparation and use of this tool can revolutionize your Bible discussion skills.