

A high-angle, wide shot of a group of approximately 15 people, mostly young adults, gathered in a living room for a Bible study. They are seated on a large beige sofa, a wooden coffee table, and several folding chairs. Many are holding open Bibles and looking down at them. The room has a fireplace with a wooden mantel holding various items, including a sign that says "HE WHO TEACHES MEN". A bookshelf filled with books and photos is visible on the left. A guitar is leaning against a wall on the right. A wooden staircase railing is in the foreground, partially obscuring the view.

HOW TO LEAD

Discussion-Based Bible Study

2.0

CONTENT: Discussion-Based Bible Study

- Not preaching from the pulpit
- High level of engagement (attention span)
- Appropriate for target group
- Generalizable to various contexts
- Creates safe space for questions
- Seating arrangement



How to LEAD Discussion-Based Bible Study

TIMELINE	
10 mins	Icebreaker
5 mins	Intro Read Text Opening Prayer
30-40 mins	Discussion Questions 1-2 Teaching Points
5 mins	Wrap-Up
5 mins	Closing Prayer Announcements
	Post-Fellowship

How to LEAD Discussion-Based Bible Study

How to **PREPARE** a Discussion-Based Bible Study

1. Choose the Bible Passage
2. Keep to 1-2 teaching points max

How to **IDENTIFY** 1-2 Teaching Points

1. Study God's Word regularly
2. Read the passage 3 times, and generate a list of observations □ LESSON/INSIGHT
3. Consult your staff mentors for guidance and feedback

Mark 1:40-45

40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” **41** Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” **42** And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. **43** And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, **44** and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” **45** But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

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How to PREPARE a Discussion-Based Bible Study

1. Choose the Bible Passage
2. Keep to 1-2 teaching points max
3. Craft the Discussion Questions based on the 1-2 teaching points
4. Craft Icebreaker Question

Mark 1:16-20

*“Follow me, and I will
make you become
fishers of men...”*



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3. Craft the Discussion Questions based on the 1-2 teaching points
4. Craft Icebreaker Question
5. WRAP-UP

How to LEAD Discussion-Based Bible Study

WRAP-UP:

- Preach the Gospel
- Summarize those 1-2 teaching points
- Weave in the sharings from others
- End with application/exhortation
- Close in prayer

How to Craft GOOD Discussion Questions

H.O.M.E.

H - HARD

O - OPEN-ENDED

M - MULTIPLE

E - EXPLORE

H.O.M.E.

H - HARD

- Not an easy question
- Answer is not very obvious
- Not basic reading comprehension
- Based on observation that is surprising, controversial, paradoxical

H.O.M.E.

O - OPEN-ENDED

- Not close-ended (like yes/no, true/false)
- Not fishing for facts
- Try to stretch their thinking

H.O.M.E.

M - MULTIPLE

- Many possible speculative answers drawn from the text and from personal experience

H.O.M.E.

E - EXPLORE

- The character's motivations, desires, values, experiences
- Insights about life, about man, about God

Lab Time

LAB TIME

1. Read Mark 3:20-21, 31-35
2. Make 1 observation about the passage that is interesting, striking, surprising, controversial
3. Come up with 1 teaching point
4. Craft 1 discussion question that points to or hints at that 1 teaching point
5. (IF TIME) Craft 1 icebreaker question

Lab Time
(5min)

Q & A

Example: Mark 3

20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. **21** And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

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OBSERVATION POINT:

Jesus' family heard that Jesus wasn't eating because he was too busy teaching and ministering, so they concluded that he was crazy and decided to go and seize him.

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TEACHING POINT:

A family’s protective love, as good and important as it is, is often limited to the members of that nuclear family and might limit the work of God.

Example: Mark 3

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What do you think is behind Jesus' family's reaction?

H - HARD

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Sample Teaching Doc

21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

Q: *What do you think is behind Jesus' family's reaction?*

- Not taking care of yourself is CRAZY (we live in a therapeutic culture where feeling good is a top priority, therefore self-care is a high value)
- Need to make sure you avoid burn-out
- People need to eat, need to take care of their needs first
- “You need to help yourself before you can help others”

It's the protective love of family

That's the beauty and power of familial love

They take care of you

They make sure you're doing alright

They're committed to your survival AND that's a GOOD thing!

Some have described it from an evolutionary biology perspective

Example: Mark 3

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Share a story of when your family bailed you out before you did something stupid you'd later regret.

Share about a person who is not related to you, yet you consider to be family.

How to Facilitate GOOD Discussion

1. 7-Second Rule
2. Use your team
3. Encouraging responses

SO FAITH COMES FROM
HEARING, AND HEARING
THROUGH THE WORD OF
CHRIST.

ROMANS 10:17



