

DISCIPLESHIP. SUPPLEMENT 4

[BIBLE]

A METHOD FOR BIBLE STUDY: THE FIVE STEPS METHOD

1. Methods.

Note the difference between: the Five Steps method for Bible study and the five steps in the Favourite Truth method of Quiet time.

2. Purpose.

The purpose of studying the Bible together as a group is to grow together in a relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another. It is to help one another to gain knowledge and understanding of the Bible and to practise its truths. For this reason it is important that the group members encourage one another to participate in the Bible study discussion. The input of every group member is important. Nobody should be put off if what he says turns out not to be completely correct (theologically). Every group member should feel that the other group members *listen* when he speaks, *take him seriously* and *accept* him. The group members are not competing with one another in Bible knowledge, but love one another by encouraging one another to grow and to share confidently.

3. Group leader.

The group leader should not become a teacher during the Bible study, but rather participate as a group member. He encourages the group members to learn together by discovering and discussing the truths from the Bible.

4. Advantages.

The five steps method for Bible study has the following advantages:

- The Five Steps method is easy to learn and easy to pass on to others.
- The Five Steps method can be used to study the Bible alone or in a small group.
- The Five Steps method involves everybody in the small group to participate in every step of the study.
- The Five Steps method first discovers and enjoys what one already understands, before questions are discussed.
- The Five Steps method asks questions that are relevant to the personal lives of the group members.
- The Five Steps method involves the group members in finding answers to the questions.
- The Five Steps method relates the truths in the Bible to *possible applications* for the lives of group members.
- The Five Steps method makes it easy to make *personal applications* by choosing one of the possible applications.
- The Five Steps method gives members an opportunity to respond in prayer to what God taught them in the Bible.

STEP 1. READ.

GOD'S WORD

Read. LET US READ _____ (the Bible reference) together.

Let us take turns to read one verse each until we have completed the reading.

STEP 2. DISCOVER (observe).

OBSERVATIONS

Consider. WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU?

Or WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE TOUCHES YOUR MIND OR HEART?

Record. Discover one or two truths that you understand. Think about them and write your thoughts in your notebook.

Share. (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, take turns to share).

Let us take turns to share with one another what each of us has discovered.

(Remember: In every small group, the group members will share different things)

STEP 3. QUESTION (interpret).

EXPLANATIONS

Consider. WHICH QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS PASSAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK TO THIS GROUP?

Let us try to understand all the truths in _____ and ask questions about the things we still do not understand.

Record. Formulate your question as clearly as possible. Then write your question in your notebook.

Share. (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, let each person first share his question.)

Discuss. (Then, choose a few of these questions and try to answer them by discussing them together in your group.)

STEP 4. APPLY (obey).

APPLICATIONS

Consider. WHICH TRUTHS IN THIS PASSAGE ARE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTIANS?

Share and record. Let us brainstorm with one another and record a list of possible applications from _____.

Consider. WHICH POSSIBLE APPLICATION DOES GOD WANT YOU TO TURN INTO A PERSONAL APPLICATION?

Record. Write this personal application down in your notebook. Feel free to share your personal application.

(Remember that people in every group will apply different truths or even make different applications of the same truth.)

STEP 5. PRAY.

RESPONSE

LET US TAKE TURNS TO PRAY ABOUT ONE TRUTH THAT GOD HAS TAUGHT US in _____.
(Respond in your prayer to what you have learned during this Bible study. Practise to pray only in one or two sentences.
Remember that people in every group will pray about different issues.)