

DAILY SMALL GROUP SCRIPTURE STUDY

There are many ways to study scripture. This is a simplified version of the *Inductive Bible Study* method I learned in seminary and based on the scholarship of two giants in the field, Robert R Bauer and Robert A. Traina. Essentially, this method seeks to find the truths and principals contained in the scripture that can be applied to times, places other than the original scriptural setting (**APPLICATION**). The reason for learning these truths and principals is to **APPROPRIATE** them for use in our own lives and to help guide us towards the work **we are to do** in addressing individual challenges and those of our families and communities.

As originally learned, I was challenged at the master's degree level to produce pages of documentation of the process for each scripture segment. But even with much less work, this method is a relevant tool for everybody who seeks to understand the love of God and His will for our lives as set forth in scripture.

What follows may be applied daily towards one or more scriptures from any reading plan. It is best done in a small 3-5 member group, but can be adapted for individual or in larger settings.

GENERAL OUTLINE:

- I. GATHERING (5 minutes) Sharing of Joys and Concerns. Opening Prayer to be given by a volunteer.
- II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE DAYS READINGS (5 minutes). For each reading to be discussed repeat steps III-V.
- III. 1st READING AND DISCUSSION (10 minutes). *(Note: In the readings and discussions below, it is not anticipated that everyone will respond to every element. Participants may take notes to reflect on the passage later.)*
 - A. Volunteer reads designated passage.
 - B. Discussion of following elements:
 1. General setting
 - a) Type of writing (Narrative?, Dialog? Poetic? Prophecy or Apocalyptic? Something else?) *Don't get hung up on these definitions!!!*
 - b) What is the historical context of the writing?
 - c) Who is the Author?

d) Who are the intended Readers? (current and historical)

e) Where does this passage fit in the surrounding text?

2. Who are the main characters? Which one do you identify with?

3. What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

4. Why might it be important today?

IV. 2nd READING AND DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

A. Volunteer reads the passage a 2nd time.

B. Discussion of the following elements:

1. **Repeated words / phrases / styles.** Why did the author repeat these? How do they add to the meaning?

2. **Comparisons / contrasts.** Why did the author use these? How do they add to the meaning?

3. Is there a **crucial point / climax** in the passage? Or is there a **change of directions** in the passage? What does it mean?

4. Is there an **opening statement** or a **conclusion** in the passage? Why did the author use these? How do they add to the meaning?

5. Is there a **key verse** or **phrase** to remember? Why is this a key segment?

V. 3rd READING AND DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

A. Volunteer reads the passage a 3rd time.

B. Discuss:

1. Why do you think God wants you to hear this today? (*"Application"*)

2. What is it He is leading you TO DO? (*"Appropriation"*)

3. HOW would He want you to do this? (*"The work you are to do."*)

VI. CLOSING PRAYER. (5 minutes). The group will stand and each person can contribute. As each finishes with: "AMEN," The group says "LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER." The Lord's Prayer is said together and the leader gives a blessing to the group, dismissing them.