

TEACHING LIKE JESUS TAUGHT

Virtual Home Bible Study Seminar

Topics we will cover:

- 1. How to schedule a home Bible study**
- 2. 4 Steps for teaching the way Jesus taught**
- 3. The 10 commandments for teachers**
- 4. What to do when it is going well**
- 5. What to do when it is not going well**
- 6. How to manage follow up**

HOW TO SCHEDULE A HOME BIBLE STUDY

One of the most asked questions is this: HOW DO I GET SOMEONE TO AGREE TO A HOME BIBLE STUDY?

The answer is simple: ASK THEM.

You have no problem asking your family, friends and even strangers 1000 other questions. Don't hesitate to ask them:

"Have you ever heard of the Holy Ghost?"

"Can I tell you about an experience I've had with God?"

"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

"May I share some Scriptures I've been reading with you?"

Any number of questions can open the door for a home Bible study. Whatever the means might be, we must take personal and individual responsibility for sharing the Gospel. What God has done for us is what God desires to do for everyone!

When asking a person for an opportunity to teach a home Bible study:

1. Try to have it in their home. If they're not comfortable meeting in their home, offer to have it at some neutral location where you will not be interrupted or distracted.
2. Get contact information for the individual right away including a phone number, address and email address (if they prefer email).
3. Schedule a date and time right away if at all possible. Try not to leave the person with, "I'll get back with you."
4. Remind the person two days before the scheduled study. If the person wants to reschedule, do so but get a definite date and time.
5. Do your best NOT to have to reschedule unless you absolutely can't go.

TEACHING THE WAY JESUS TAUGHT

STEP 1: Make it mean something to the person...

Jesus took people where they were and made the lessons meaningful to their lives in some way. For example, He talked to shepherds about sheep and fishermen about fish, etc.

STEP 2: Stick to the facts...

When Jesus taught He presented the Word of God as the Word of God. He left no room for opinion, religious tradition or philosophy. "As it is written" was good enough for Jesus and it's good enough for us.

STEP 3: Ask for a response...

Jesus asked people to do something with the information He had given them. He didn't ask them what they thought about it; He asked them what they were going to do about it.

STEP 4: Engage with compassion...

The ministry of Jesus was one of compassion and love. He knew He was right but still taught with humility. Love can make the difference between someone listening and someone being turned off by your presentation.

10 TIPS FOR TEACHING A HOME BIBLE STUDY

1. Always take extra Bibles, pens/pencils and note paper.

The individual is always going to be better off if they can read the Scriptures from their own Bible but having an extra one in case they need it is better than not having one at all.

2. KISS – Keep It Short & Simple.

A sermon isn't better because it's longer. Neither is a home Bible study. Remember that you're a guest in their home and, as a guest, you should be mindful of the time. An hour is usually enough.

3. Don't use terms the person probably wouldn't understand.

Don't say "the salvific efficacy of mononymous immersion" when you can say, "forgiveness of sins through water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ." Never assume someone understands "church talk" just because you do. Make it plain, simple and clear.

4. Maintain control and don't get distracted.

Yes, you are in someone else's home. But think of yourself as a guest speaker and, as a guest speaker, it's your job to maintain control of the direction of the message and to keep everyone focused and on topic. It's okay to take an occasional minor detour, but you can't take every exit on the highway or you'll never get where you need to go.

5. Learn to say, "Good question! We'll get to that later."

Unless a question is directly relevant to the topic at hand, do your best to acknowledge the question and move on. Sometimes the question will answer itself if you'll continue in the study you've already prepared. Sometimes a question is a good opportunity to schedule another home Bible study with the person.

6. Never ask “do you believe that” and don’t argue.

You are very likely going to start an argument with those words. Instead, ask something like “have you ever heard of that?” Learn how to confront without being confrontational. You can quickly tell if someone is only interested in an argument. You are better off to close your Bible and talk about fishing and the weather. Refuse to argue especially when you know you’re right.

7. Always begin and end a Bible study with prayer.

In the beginning, pray for God to help and give understanding. At the end, you might find yourself praying for the individual to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Be prepared to respond to their response.

8. Build on what someone already knows when possible.

Your goal is to help an individual find Truth. In doing so, bashing anything and everything they already know isn’t likely to help. Build on what they already know no matter how little that might be.

9. Ask simple questions that require short answers.

Don’t ask, “What do you think about being baptized?” Ask questions like, “What two things did Peter command the people to do in Acts 2:38?” The question is simple and the answer is short.

10. Be on time, be kind, be thoughtful, be thankful.

Do not show up late. Do not take the opportunity for granted. Express your thanks for the opportunity very clearly and as often as is appropriate. Don’t do anything to make the person think you look down on them in any way, shape or form. Try not to bring young children unless absolutely necessary.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT'S GOING WELL

What we always hope for is that the home Bible study will go well and the person will not only be interested but respond.

If the individual:

1. Is obviously interested but hesitates to commit to a response...

This is a perfect opportunity to schedule a future home Bible study. Do your best to make sure the next study is no more than one week from the last.

2. Wants to respond to the Bible study as soon as possible...

Pray with the person then and there and help them in repentance. There's nothing wrong with repenting WITH a person so they can hear you as an example. Encourage them to pray out loud. Set up a meeting between the individual and the Pastor ASAP.

3. Is convicted at some point during the study...

It is absolutely alright to leave the "script" behind and follow the leading of the Holy Ghost. If the person is under conviction, don't "preach" the conviction away. Respond in the Spirit as the individual is responding to the Spirit.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: A person DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT until they're in a church service to repent of their sins. Repentance is a step they can take in the setting of a home Bible study. In fact, many have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost during a home Bible study. DO NOT LIMIT WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH YOU. Be confident in God, His Word and His Spirit that dwells in you.

IF THE PERSON WANTS TO BE BAPTIZED: CALL THE PASTOR IMMEDIATELY. Be prepared to share the details of the study with him and why you feel the person has truly repented of their sins. Give the Pastor an opportunity to speak to the person. If they have truly repented and desire baptism, it will be scheduled ASAP.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT'S NOT GOING WELL

Sometimes a home Bible study will take a bad turn. The individual might:

1. Want to argue about what you're teaching.
2. Become confrontational or aggressive.
3. Become sarcastic or rude.
4. Respond with, "Well, I just don't believe that."
5. Ask you to leave.

In any of these cases, STOP THE BIBLE STUDY IMMEDIATELY. You will gain nothing by trying to force-feed someone who doesn't want to eat the Bread of Life. You will be better off simply ending the Bible study with a meek and humble spirit and parting with the person on friendly terms.

Remember these few points:

1. You are a messenger of Truth. If they don't want to receive the Truth, you are commanded to leave them alone and go in peace (Matthew 10:14).
2. You are not responsible for their response. You are responsible to sow the seed. If they refuse the seed, that is not your fault (Matthew 13:22).
3. You are commanded not to give what is holy to dogs or to cast your pearls before swine. This is speaking of the message of the Kingdom which is not for those who only want to make light of it (Matthew 7:6).
4. You cannot force someone to hear or see if they don't want to. Don't try. If God's Spirit can't convict them, you're not going to (Mark 4:12).
5. They ignored Moses and the Prophets. They ignored Christ. They wouldn't even listen if someone came back from the dead. If they don't hear you, don't be discouraged. You're in good company (Luke 16:31).

FOLLOWING UP

1. Always keep a log of your Bible studies including:
 - a. Name
 - b. Date
 - c. Subject
 - d. Address
 - e. Phone Number
 - f. Notes
 - g. Dates and manner of follow up
2. Leave a tract, booklet, or something for the person to read so you can talk about it later. Leaving a copy of the Bible study you just taught is a great idea.
3. A personal visit, phone call, or text within 48 hours
 - a. Ask, "What did you think about ...?"
 - i. Let them lead the conversation.
 - b. Ask, "Could we meet up again soon to talk about ...?"
 - i. Base this question on their answer to "what did you think about."
4. If the person is not interested in another Bible study at that time, make a note in your log and contact them again in a week without mentioning another Bible study. A simple church invitation would be appropriate.
5. Follow up again once per week thereafter casually mentioning another Bible study and/or an invitation to church (alternate).
6. If after 6 weeks the person has not again mentioned a Bible study and has not accepted an invitation to church, be cordial at a distance. Continue to make yourself available and engage "regularly" for 1 year.
7. When there are special events at the church, always make sure people you have taught a Bible study are invited regardless of how long it has been.
8. When you are asked to leave someone alone – leave them alone.