

STEPS TO A MEANINGFUL BIBLE STUDY LESSON

In order to make the most of the time with learners during your Bible study session on Sunday, follow these five steps to a meaningful Bible study lesson.

Prior to Class

RESEARCH

1. A good lesson is the product of intentional **research**. Remember that Bible study is about much more than sharing opinions about what a particular verse “means to me.” A good Bible study teacher must be concerned with what Scripture means to God. Be sure to set aside time throughout the week to do your research on the lesson passage under consideration. Make certain that you have a good understanding of the lesson passage and its context.

REDUCE

2. Once you have completed your research, **reduce** the lesson. Remember that in most cases you have less than an hour to guide the study on Sunday morning. Be prepared to set the passage in context. Anticipate possible questions. Consider how you will stimulate interest in the lesson, guide learners to discover the truths in the passage under consideration, and lead learners to make application of those truths.

During Class

GUIDE

3. Intentionally **guide** learners. Before you examine the passage, begin by stimulating interest in the lesson. Do not assume that learners are ready to learn just because they are quietly seated in class. You have probably heard the old expression, “You can take a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink!” One old farmer noted that you can make any horse drink if you will just salt his oats! So, look for creative ways to salt the oats or to stimulate interest in the lesson.

CHALLENGE

4. Intentionally **challenge** members to interact with the lesson passage. Remember that people retain only 20% of what they hear, 50% of what they hear and see, and 90% of what they hear, see, and do. So, instead of lecturing every week — ask questions, use visuals such as maps and charts, promote discussion, use drama, or assign projects. Encourage learners to use their Bibles as you guide the study.

After Class

APPLY

5. Application is an important part of the learning process. Bruce Wilkinson of *Walk Thru the Bible Ministries* said, “How utterly revolutionary for the teacher to realize that his purpose centers not around what he does, but upon what his class members do.” As you prepare your lesson give adequate consideration to how you will challenge learners to **apply** the truths learned. Be sure to make all application personal, practical, and measurable.