

# Personal Bible Study Basics

During Study:

## I. PRAY BEFORE BEGINNING.

## II. ALWAYS ASK OTHER PERSON(S) TO READ ALOUD FROM THEIR OWN BIBLE.

If a person is not comfortable reading aloud, be gracious. Remember Romans 10:17. As long as the Word is heard it is effective, but a person hearing himself read aloud is often most effective. I

## III. ASK OTHER PERSON(S) IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

- A. If you don't know the answer to a question or don't have a Scripture: BE HONEST! Tell them the truth (i.e. "I don't know," "I'm not sure where the Scripture speaks to this question," or "Good question, I've never thought of that before"). ALWAYS state, "I'll research this question and we'll look at it together next time."
- B. If they don't have any questions (or if they are not comfortable enough to ask), have prepared material with you. Personally, if a person does not have any questions on the first study, I start with John 12:47-48.
- C. ATTITUDE: Remember, this is their study. We are there to answer their questions first, and ultimately lead them to the gospel.

## IV. AT CLOSE OF STUDY:

- A. Set up next study--time and place stated for next week.
  - 1. If this was a good time for my schedule, I'll ask, "Shall we meet together next week; same time, same place?"
  - 2. If this was a difficult time frame for my schedule, I'll ask if another time would "be better" or "work" for them.
- B. DON'T OVERSTAY YOUR WELCOME!  
Limit study to 45 minutes to 1 hour, especially on first study.
- C. END STUDY WITH PRAYER.

## Before Study:

Prepare and pray.

## To Get a Study:

- I. Pray; open up times in your schedule. If you don't have a study, then use that open block of time to pray for God to fill it with someone.
  
- II. Pre-plan "open" times when you could have a study. When you share with people, always try to set a specific time and place for the study.
  - A. Time is most important; be flexible to their schedule, especially for the first study.
  - B. Place--Jesus commands us to "go." We are to go to them--where they are most comfortable. Studies show if they "come" to us for study, over 50% of the time the study will not happen. Note:
    1. If a person is not at the designated place when we go to them, be gracious. Leave a note and express that you are sorry you missed them and you will be in touch to set up a better time for them.
    2. If a person is at home, but had forgotten you were coming; be gracious. Say something like, "That's okay, is there a better time for you that we can get together?" Several times I've had people say, "Oh well, come on in, let me finish what I'm doing first . . . ."

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