

REACHING HEARTS AND CHANGING LIVES FOR CHRIST

LESSON 4: METHOD

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is imperative that every member is involved in the growth of the church. (Eph. 4.15,16)
2. Reaching hearts with the gospel is central to our growth.
 - a) Motivation: Trust in the effectiveness of the gospel. (Rom. 1.16)
 - b) Message: Stay on message. Always bring them back to the Bible. (Luke 7.27; 10.26)
 - c) Manner: Show an interest in people. Let them know you care. (Acts 2.46,47)
3. Talking to people about the Bible can be frightening. You don't know how people will react.
 - a) Timothy was being persecuted and became afraid. (2 Tim. 1.4,6; 3.12)
 - b) **2 TIMOTHY 1.7:** "*a spirit of fear*" Lit. cowardice, timidity. (cf. Rev. 21.8)
 - c) **2 TIMOTHY 1.7:** "*but of power*" Lit., ability. (cf. Eph. 6.10). I have the ability!
 - d) **2 TIMOTHY 1.7:** "*and of love*" Love compels us to overcome fear. (2 Cor. 5.9-15)
 - e) **2 TIMOTHY 1.7:** "*and of a sound mind*" The gospel makes sense. (Isa. 1.18; Acts 17.2)
4. How do you approach a Bible study?

I. A BIBLICAL APPROACH TO BIBLE STUDY

- A. Simple! A Bible study should be kept simple.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 11.3:** "*the simplicity that is in Christ.*"
 - a) The gospel message is not complicated.
 - b) It is man who complicates and confuses the message. (1 Cor. 1.18-25)
 2. Focus on the first principles. (Heb. 5.12). Defer mature topics.
- B. Scriptural! A Bible study should focus on the Bible.
 1. **ACTS 17.2:** "*reasoned with them from the Scriptures*"
 2. Scriptures need to be "brought down" to their level.
 - a) **ACTS 17.3:** "*explaining and demonstrating*" Lit. putting scripture by the side.
 - b) **ACTS 17.3:** "*This Jesus whom I preach to you*" Lit., bring down to your level.

II. MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

- A. What someone believes will dictate your method.
 1. Do they believe they are already saved? (Acts 2.21)
 2. Do they believe in the inerrancy of the Bible? (2 Tim. 2.15; 3.16,17)
 3. What is their religious background? (Acts 17.22,23)
- B. Suggestions on how to study based on where they are spiritually.
 1. How to study with those who are religious.
 - a) Keep it simple. The Bible – Church – Salvation. (Acts 8.12)
 - b) Keep it scriptural. "My preacher says..." Show them the Bible!
 2. Those who do not believe in God.
 - a) Keep it simple. Evidence of God is simple. Universe exists. Man is unique.
 - b) Keep it scriptural. (Ps. 19.1-3; Acts 14.17; Rom. 1.20).
 3. Those who believe they are already saved.
 - a) Keep it simple. H-B-R-C-B
 - b) Keep it scriptural. (Acts 19.1-5). Compare their salvation with the Bible.
- C. Three step approach to study the Bible.
 1. Establish Biblical authority. Truth is found in the Bible.
 2. Establish the nature and identity of the Lord's church.
 3. Establish their spiritual condition and how to change.