

Guide lines for Bible Studies

“Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest.” (9T p.126) Personal Bible study is one of the most effective ways to develop an interest for the Bible. So how do you make a Bible study?

Purpose:

- a) Inform the intellect (Acts 8:30)
- b) Touch the emotions (Acts 24:25, Luke 24:32)
- c) Affect the will to make a decision (Acts 18:4, Isa 1:18)

Structure:

- a) Prayer
 - short
 - to the point
 - personal
- b) Introduction
 - tell them what you are going to tell them
- c) Study
 - simple & logical
 - be enthusiastic
 - apply into the practical life
- d) APPEAL/conclusion
 - specific and straight question
 - be quiet after the question is asked
 - avoid small talking after the decision is made, since it can ruin the atmosphere of conviction.

Time: Keep Bible studies short: 35-60 minutes.

Place: Sit rather by the kitchen table than in the TV-couch, due to better study environment.

To think about

- Smalltalk before the study (max 5 min), not after.
- Do not pretend as if you know. If you don't have the answer to a question, say it! Say: "I actually don't know, but I can look it up until next time we meet" (Do it too)
- DNA – Do Not Argue! Arguing here means to emotionally meet a counterargument to prove that you are right. This results in greater resistance from that persons side. Help them rather lovingly to humbly investigate God's will from the Bible. And pray!
- Go two by two so one can fill in if the other one is busy. (Mark 6:7, Ecc 4:9, 10)
- Leave review material. Let your prayer partner write down the texts during the study.
- Be a good listener, EAR – Expression (on your face). Attention, give them your attention. Response, give fitting responses to what they are saying.
- Keep a positive attitude. Don't take anything for granted. Do not be shocked! No matter what the person says/does. Sometimes your study contacts can express rebellion just to test your reactions.
- Tithes your information (Isa 30:24).
- Make Christ the centre of every study.