

Bible Study Methods

Steps for Small Group Bible Study

- Step 1: Have one person read the biblical passage aloud.
- Step 2: Ask each person to identify one word or phrase that seems important to that person.
- Step 3: Invite each person to share that word or phrase with the group.
- Step 4: Have someone else read the biblical passage aloud again.
- Step 5: Tell each person to write down what the biblical passage has to do with his or her life now.
- Step 6: Invite each person to share what he or she wrote in #5 with the rest of the group.
- Step 7: Have someone read the biblical passage aloud a third time.
- Step 8: Ask each person to write down what God seems to be saying to him or her in the passage.
- Step 9: Invite each person to share what he or she believes God is saying to him or her in the passage.
- Step 10: Join hands and invite each person to pray aloud for the person on his or her right.

Shared Praxis

1. Identify the issue or challenge to be discussed. Invite people to name their own experiences concerning the issue or challenge.
2. Invite people to discuss the issue or challenge and how it affects their lives. Encourage them to reflect on why they do what they do and what the likely or intended consequences of their actions are.
3. Introduce the biblical story and background information about the setting of the story. Read the story and talk about what happened in the story. Encourage people to discuss the faith response the passage invites.
4. Encourage people to talk about how the story speaks to their own experiences with the issue or challenge. Invite them to discuss what can they learn about the issue or challenge from the biblical story. Encourage them to have a conversation between their own stories and the biblical story.
5. Provide the opportunity for the learners to think about how their future behavior might change because of hearing the story and thinking about it. Give them an opportunity to choose a faith response for the future.

Theologizing Methods

1. Remember an experience. It can be any experience that the group has shared or a story from scripture.
2. Recall and retell the experience. Group members use their own words to retell the story.
3. Identify feelings of the people in the story. If there are unresolved feelings in the group about this experience, talk about them.
4. Isolate the main issue (such as love, conflict, or peace) found in the story or experience.
5. If you began with a group experience, relate these main issues to biblical stories or theological concept(s). If you began with a biblical story, relate these main issues to the experiences of the group.
6. Clarify what the implications are for beliefs and/or behavior, both at camp and at home.

Bible Storytelling Methods

Skits

Tableau—Read the scripture, and talk about the different scenes in the story. Imagine you are going to draw the different events in the story. Instead of drawing them, stand still/freeze as if you are the figures in the drawing. Do this for each of the scenes in the story. Have someone read or tell the story as each scene is made **Supplies:** Bibles, (optional: costumes)

Narrated—Have one person read or tell the story. This can be fun if the person tells the story without the actors knowing what the story is. They act it out as the narrator describes what they are doing. **Supplies:** Bibles, (optional: costumes)

Camper Developed—Read the scripture. Talk together about a way to act out the story. Discuss who will say what. **Supplies:** Bibles (optional: costumes)

Puppets

Finger Puppets—Put one bandage over the top of a finger and wrap a second bandage around the finger over the two ends of the other bandage. Draw a face on the bandage. Sometimes you can loosen the bandages enough so the finger puppet slips on and off your finger, but normally you just use the puppet once. **Supplies:** One-inch-wide bandages (two for each person), fine markers, Bibles

Paper Plate Puppets—Draw a face on the surface of the paper plate you would normally eat on. You can draw the hair, or use glue and yarn to add hair. When the face is complete, attach a craft stick to the back with masking tape. **Supplies:** One paper plate (the cheap kind) for each person, markers, craft sticks, masking tape, Bibles (optional: glue, yarn, and scissors)

Clothespin Puppets—Hold the clothespin up as if you were going to push it down onto a clothesline. Use a fine marker to draw a face on the round top. Then using the fabric, fashion clothing for the puppet. Cut out a three-inch by one-inch rectangle. Cut a slit in the middle and put the fabric over the “head” of the puppet. Tie it with yarn.

Supplies: Push clothespins (not the clip type), scraps of fabric, yarn, glue, scissors, fine markers, Bibles

Easy Poetry

Cinquain poetry is based on a certain number of words in each of its five lines. The words can be any length and do not have to rhyme. Line 1: One word: a person, place, or thing

Line 2: Two words that tell about the word in Line 1.

Line 3: Three words that also tell about the word in Line 1.

Line 4: Four words that tell a feeling about

Line 1.

Line 5: One word that is like the word in Line 1.

Haiku is a form of poetry that comes from Japan. It depends on the number of syllables in each line. Here’s how you do it:

The first line has five syllables.

The second line has seven syllables.

The third line has five syllables.

Supplies: White copy paper or notebook paper, pencils, handout with poetry forms, Bibles

Respond Artistically

Mural—Read the Bible story and decide what the major scenes in the story are. Divide the butcher paper into panels or use a separate large sheet of paper for each scene. Draw the different scenes to the story. Hang the scenes in order on the wall. **Supplies:** Bibles, butcher paper or separate large sheets of paper that can be taped together, markers, masking tape or pushpins

Cartoon—Read the Bible story and decide how you will tell the story as a cartoon. Draw the pictures of the cartoon. Hang on the wall. **Supplies:** Bibles, white copy paper, pencils, black ink pens, masking tape or pushpins

Song—Read the Bible story and write it as a song. Choose a familiar tune to sing the words to. **Supplies:** Bibles, large sheets of paper and markers

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