



CHURCH INTEGRATION

Traditionally, churches use Bible study curriculums/workbooks written by outside sources for their women's/men's ministries and/or biblical literacy classes. This has a purpose. Bible studies written with a fill-in-the-blank method are immensely fruitful for introducing proper Bible study methods and building a foundational knowledge of the Scriptures.

My challenge to church teachers and elders is to consider the question "at what point do we teach our members how to independently study?" In other words, at what point do we challenge ourselves and our fellow brothers/sisters to begin critically thinking and attentively reading the Word of God without prompting? Rather than being told where to look and what to look for, what if we invited the participants to look and find on their own? To learn how to deconstruct and reconstruct the text like the teachers?

If your church is asking this question, The Bible Study Workbook may become an invaluable tool.

As a nearly blank interior, the BSW provides enough guidance to properly observe, interpret, and apply, with freedom for processing and discovering. It bridges the gap between traditional studies and a completely blank canvas by provision of a systematic and transparent approach to the inductive method. The BSW will ensure your participants follow proper hermeneutics with the joy of knowing that they are personally critically thinking.

The BSW is designed with the individual and the church in mind. A variety of church Bible study structures exist, and the following are a few ways you could implement the BSW depending on what you currently provide:

1. Offer two types of learning environments:

Bible Studies: traditionally written curriculums/workbooks (fill-in-the-blank) with the goal of building overall knowledge of the Scriptures and gospel-centered discussions within community.

Bible Classes: utilizing the BSW to help participants become an independent student of the Word with the goal of increasing biblical literacy.

2. Train women's/men's ministry teachers with the BSW:

Equipping them to create and build their own curriculums.

Too many ministries rely on "big names" to teach their congregation through video formats. Let us strive to call up and equip our own.

3. Offer one type of learning environment:

Bible Classes: utilizing the BSW to help participants become an independent student of the Word with the goal of increasing biblical literacy.

In offering one learning environment like this, the BSW could either be used strictly by the teacher, and the fundamentals taught in the BSW would be passed on to the participants, or every participant could use a BSW.

4. Offer as a discipleship tool:

As you equip and urge your members to disciple the community (both in the church and out), the BSW can be listed/offered as a tool specifically for the aspect of a discipling relationship that involves teaching both the discipline of Bible study and understanding of the Bible in general.

The Bible Study Workbook is easy to implement in a myriad of ways because of its systematic and clean approach to Bible study. The goal of building up independent students of the Word should burn a fire within us as church leadership/representatives. Biblical illiteracy is a growing problem. False teachers arise daily, particularly within this social media driven age. Let us train disciples who revere the Word of God, desperate to know their Savior, and thereby growing more into his image.

If you'd like to inquire on implementing the BSW within your specific church context, please visit our contact page.