

Meaningful Bible Study For Teachers



*What Are the Best Tools
For Meaningful Bible Study
& How Do We Use Them?*

**By
Bass Mitchell**

MEANINGFUL BIBLE STUDY FOR TEACHERS

PURPOSE: This workshop will do two things. First, introduce teachers to basic Bible study resources. Second, give them some practical experience in using those resources.

TARGET GROUP: Teachers of all age groups

TIME REQUIRED: 2 Hours

MATERIALS NEEDED: (Check them off as you gather them.)

_____ 5 tables with several chairs at each one

_____ Bible study resources: translations, dictionaries, commentaries, atlas, concordances, etc.

_____ A copy of Appendices C and D for each person.

_____ Have extra paper and pencils available

_____ Five sheets of paper as headings for the learning stations

_____ (Optional) light refreshments

SPECIAL PREPARATION AND SUGGESTIONS:

1. The most important preparation is setting up the five learning stations. These are simply five tables with chairs. On one table have translations of the Bible, on another commentaries on the Bible, another dictionaries of the Bible, another concordances, and the last one Bible atlases.

2. It is important to have as many Bible study resources as you can get. Look over the list of resources on Appendix C. Perhaps you have some of these in your church library. Get your librarian to help. Members of your church staff probably have an abundance of these resources that they would let you use. Also, you can encourage the teachers to bring any Bible study materials they may have.

3. Special need will be for as many commentaries on the Gospel of Luke as you can get (See Appendix C.) Other commentaries to display would also be helpful.

4. Get five sheets of paper. On one write "Translations," on another "Dictionaries," on another "Atlas," on another "Commentaries," and on the last one "Concordances." Display the proper one at each learning station.

5. It may be that you do not have to set up these stations. For example, if you can meet in your church library and these resources are available there, you can adapt to that situation.

I. WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

A. Give the following devotion or have someone plan to do it. It requires a delicious looking piece of bread as an object lesson.

How to Eat the Bible

Have you ever seen someone eat like this? (Take a bite from a piece of bread. Chew and swallow it quickly.)

It is not good for us to eat that way, is it? It can be harmful to the body. Also, we do not get all the nutritional value out of the food.

We live in a day of fast food. We want our food fast and often eat it fast. I'm afraid this attitude carries over sometimes into our spiritual lives. Many Christians read the Bible and the Sunday School lesson like fast food. They do what I just did with the bread. They "chew it up" as quickly as possible. That is not good for their spiritual lives.

Here is how we should eat. (Take a bite of bread. Chew it slowly. Take your time and enjoy it.)

When we eat food like this, it tastes better and it is better for us. We get its fuller nutritional benefits. And this is how we should read the Bible and study our lesson each week. We need to "chew" it slowly. Meditate on it. Reflect on each phrase and word, taking time to apply each part to our lives.

The Psalmist knew this secret. He said more than once, "O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (See Psalm 119:15, 48, 78, 97, etc.)

Do you want the Bible and the Sunday School lesson to be more meaningful to you? Eat it slowly. It is spiritual food to savor.

B. Call on someone to lead the group in prayer.

II. INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

A. This workshop, to continue the analogy in the devotion, is aimed at helping you learn how to eat the Bible, that is, to better understand it and thus to teach it more effectively.

There is another analogy that works well. Think of the Bible as a gold mine. There are great nuggets of truth right on the surface that are easily seen and acquired. However, other nuggets are buried. You have to use tools to get to them. In other words, it takes some digging.

This workshop will help you learn what those tools are for digging into God is word and give you some practical experience in using them.

B. You are going to be introduced to five basic Bible study resources. They are: Bible translations, Bible dictionaries, Bible atlas, Bible concordance, and Bible commentaries.

C. At this point give each person a copy of Appendix C: Five Essential Tools for Bible Study. It is self-explanatory.