**Studying the Bible With Our Friends**

**How to**

Our purpose: To know God and to be known by him—to give Glory to God.

Our mission: To win souls for Christ.

2 Cor 5:17-20

Romans 15:14-16 Our “priestly duty” as ministers is to “proclaim the gospel of God” to non-believers.

How do we do that?

1. By sharing with our friends, neighbors, relatives, fellow students and co-workers. (our lesson 6 weeks ago)

2. By studying the Bible with them.

I want to give you a challenge and a vision: To study the Bible with a friend, fellow student, relative, neighbor or co-worker sometime in the next two months.

But this is a how-to class. A nuts-and-bolts primer.

1. Ask the person to study.

2. Ideally, get at least one other person in the study, but do NOT delay it for this reason.

3. The first study:

Ask questions.

Do a spiritual timeline.

When you do this do NOT pre-judge!!!! Apply the Golden Rule.

You and/or partner share your spiritual “story.” Emphasize how you came to be interested in studying, and be quite specific about the exact date and circumstances when you were baptized.

Ask the person and listen VERY CAREFULLY.

Then ask questions from the following list:

Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God/inspired?

Why do you believe this?

Do you believe you are a Christian? Do you believe you are saved?

When and how (and please be VERY specific) were you forgiven of your sins?

What was your frame of mind at the time?

These questions can either be a cynical attempt to manipulate people to a desired end, or it can be a sincere attempt to find out where they are at so you can help them to get to where they need to go.

Note: Some people do this as part of their seeking God study. Up to you!!!! Ask yourself this question:

1. Is this person relatively religious? Does the person think he or she is probably saved? Do they, at least theoretically believe the Bible is from God?

Note: This group includes people (rare, but…) who are actually already a Christian.

This person should do the traditional Bible study series.

For this person, doing something like a discipleship study early on makes sense.

Or

2. This person has almost none or only a limited background in Christianity. He or she is not even completely sure that they believe Jesus is the Son of God or that the Bible is inspired by God.

This person should do the Jesus study series.

For this person, doing a discipleship study early makes no sense. You want to build faith in Jesus.

Now, do two skits to demonstrate.

**Person #1**

Seeking God study optional

Word study optional

Discipleship study not optional!!!

(the part about showing that the word disciple is more common that Christian is not essential)

Ask strongly directive questions.

John 8:31-32 Q: Have you been holding to the teachings of Jesus?

John 13:34-35 Q: Have you been part of a church like this?

Mark 1:14-18 Q: Have you been a fisher of people? Explain? Are you a disciple?

Luke 9:23-26 Q: Have you been denying self and carrying your cross?

Luke 14:25-33 Q: Have you counted the cost?

Matthew 28:18-20 Q: Does the order matter (make disciple, baptize them)?

Then complete the series…

**Person #2** Goal: To help them to come to have faith in Jesus.

Possibly read John together, then do Jesus series.

The Gospel of Jesus (introduction: you can start The Life of Jesus immediately)

The Life of Jesus (meet Jesus: prophecy fulfillment, miracles, claims)

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus (cross study)

The Promise of Jesus (salvation study)

The Response to Jesus (a call to repentance and teaching on baptism)

The Lordship of Jesus (a call to discipleship)

If you do not have the studies, go to [www.bakersfieldchurchofchrist.com](http://www.bakersfieldchurchofchrist.com)

Click on learning

Click on the Bible Study Series Or Jesus Study Series

Final challenge:

Write down and share with your partner the names of 3-5 people you are going to ask to study the Bible with you. Then pray about it and go out and make it happen.

1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, God gave the increase.

Cecelia planted, Karen watered, God gave the increase.