

MANUSCRIPT BIBLE STUDY LEADERS GUIDE (60 minutes)

Scripture Passage: [_____]

[5 min] Community and Vision

Lead a brief activity that helps your group get to know one another.

Then share your vision for why you are meeting and what you hope to see God do.

[1 min] Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study.

[2 min] Context

Provide opening comments that orient participants to the context of the passage you are studying by writing 1-2 sentences that capture the nearest major event, time, atmosphere, and location.

[4 min] Read

Read the passage aloud. Briefly give any cultural background that the original audience would have known but can't be discovered from the text.

[5 min] Individual Observation

'Reread the passage on your own and mark what you notice.

Be like a curious investigator. Note repeated words, characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect.

Make sections and label them.'

[12 min] Group Observation

'Let's share our observations with one another. Be careful not to draw conclusions yet.' *Start in pairs if the group is >10 or if the group is new or especially quiet.*

[20 min] Understand

'Let's get curious and ask questions that will help us think about what the author wanted the original readers to understand. Good questions come from our best observations.'

In Box #4 collect their questions and arrange them in the order of the text.

Add 1-2 of your prepared questions, if necessary.

Decide which 4-5 are most significant and use the passage to answer those together.

Questions for Understanding (Prepare 4-6; record questions posed by participants)

Starting with the first question in the order of the passage, ask a question and invite several people to answer using evidence in the text and the context. Be careful not to answer the question yourself.

'While answering, let's listen and make space for one another as we share. We will keep the text at the center. Let's keep each other on track by saying, "Please help us see that in the text."'

First 5 min answering in pairs if >10 participants.

[3 min] Summarize

Give a summary or mini-preach of the core message your group has landed on. Or you can ask your group:

'If you could communicate the main point of this passage in just one sentence, what would it be? What core message do you think the author is communicating to the original audience?'

After some group discussion, retell the passage in your own words and share the core message you prepared.

[6 min] Respond

'Let's connect the passage to our own lives by answering the following question...'

Prepare a few possible application questions beforehand and select the one that fits best with the group discussion. Use these examples to help you get started:

How does this passage challenge your current thinking about Jesus?
What is this passage asking of you or your community?

Allow a quiet moment and then share all together or just in pairs. Model vulnerability.

[2 min] Pray. Close in prayer together or in pairs.