

Tips for Making Spiritual Transformation a Reality Through Bible Study

- **Acknowledge that the Holy Spirit, who teaches adults and leads them into all truth, is the same Holy Spirit that teaches and ministers to the students we work with.** Watch to see what He wants to teach students in any given weekly session.
- **Make sure the meat of the session actually searches scripture,** is spent in examining God's Word, and is not just a discussion of students' and leaders' opinions or beliefs. It is within scripture that students will find absolute truth.
- **Don't let students answer a Bible question unless they tell you the scripture where the truth is found.** In other words make a reference necessary along with the student's answer. "Show me where in the scriptures we are studying where you found that truth or answer." Students must see that we get the truth from God's Word, not our own opinions or thoughts.
- **Be careful not to answer your own questions.** Give students time to think when you pose a question. Let students know that the quietness that follows your question is OK. (That will help settle your own uneasiness when your question is greeted by that "silent sound"!)

When we answer our own questions, we teach students that they do not have to respond and that their answer probably was not important anyway.

- **Use activities that lead students to discover what we, their leaders, already know or have learned during our personal study and preparation.** When we lead them to discover truths out of God's word for themselves instead of telling them what we know, we allow opportunity for the Spirit to do His work. As we pair students up or group them into groups of two or three to complete an activity, the Holy Spirit makes the Biblical truth living and relevant to each of their individual lives. He is freed up to do this when students are allowed to take the dialogue about the assignment and God's Word and steer it where they need it to go, contingent upon what is going on in their lives. Small group assignments also give students "permission" to lead out and participate.
- **Let students translate information into their own language.**
- **Watch for those times when the Holy Spirit makes Himself known within the session.** Those times, very frequently, take place as students share the results of their group work or report on their findings in the Word. Be ready to help students make connections with God during those times.

Jesus gave us this promise, “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world is unable to receive because it doesn’t see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17

- **Prepare your heart for worship to take place during the Bible study session.** When we think of worship, we traditionally define it by the hour set aside and identified by the components we are used to experiencing corporately (i.e. choruses, drama, presentations of solos and preaching.) Real worship takes place any time we come face to face with God and leave His presence changed. So actually, worship should take place in our Bible studies. If we truly believe that God’s word is living and active and is a conversation from Him to us, then we must also realize that He is about to talk to us while in Bible study.
- **Worship with your students when they lead you into worship.** Affirm them for doing so. Sometimes when students share from their assignments and small group work, they will say things that are totally profound. When God grabs your heart as that happens, be transparent and let your students know that you have just had a personal connection with God.
- **Real worship takes place as we adjust our lives to God because we acknowledge His worthiness.** Set the stage for students to have a worship experience with God as they are given the opportunity to measure their own lives up against the Biblical truth or standard of God they have discovered in Bible study. Lead them in an activity which causes them to do a face to face with God and in some manner answer these questions: “In light of the truth we have just discovered, what does God have to say to me personally about the truth?”, or “How do I measure up to the truth of God?”.

When students take the time to examine their lives, compare themselves to a Holy God, realize that they fall short, and make a commitment to surrender to Him and His truth....then true worship has taken place.

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