



LEADING A SMALL GROUP

See rhodes.ruf.org for more Resources

Intro:

What are your small group experiences? What makes a good one?
Should every Christian be in a small group? What are good things that can occur?
We'll use the method of Observation – Interpretation – Application to digest God's Word.

OBSERVATION

What questions do we ask when we observe? **Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?**

What sorts of things should we look for as we observe?

Repeated words

Context is King! (Historical context, genre considerations, redemptive plan)

Promises and commands

Questions asked

Lists

Linking words (therefore, for, so)

Images

What if any other questions do these make you ask?

INTERPRETATION

What is the goal of interpretation? What might be some alternative, sub-Christian goals?

Can you think of some things that are very important to keep in mind as you interpret?

Context- where this passage fits in, what has been said around the passage.

Includes meaning of words in context.

Historical context.

Grammar.

Genre: poetry, teaching (didactic), narrative (story), parable, history, prophecy

Interpret Scripture in light of Scripture. See the passage in light of God's unfolding plan of redemption. What does this mean and how can we do this?

How is interpreting a story different from interpreting a teaching passage?

When God gives imperatives (commands) they are rooted in indicatives (true things that enable/motivate you to obey). What does this mean to you?

APPLICATION

What makes application difficult?

- Don't want to tell people to do things the Bible doesn't
- Don't want to come across as legalistic
- Don't want to do what the Bible says
- We want to apply before observing and interpreting
- Sometimes it's not as clear...when it's telling a story or teaching theology, how do I apply that?

E.g., See how Romans 8.28-30 teaches theology. How does context bring out application?

What is the fallen condition in a passage and how is it key to application?

How can we apply the fallen condition to these 4 rubrics?

1. Head – vision for the world. How am I to understand the way I see the world? What about my thinking needs changing? What deep commitments does this passage challenge?
2. Heart – what do I need to love? what kind of person do I need to become? character issues here. how we relate and talk to people here?
3. Hands – this is about duty. what do I need to do? what have I failed to do? why? (this will bring you back to heart issues.)
4. Feet – what should I pursue/value? what should my priorities be? what is worthy of my time/attention?

More specific questions?

What is legalism? How can I keep from being legalistic and dragging people down?

ALSO...

What about commentaries and small group leading?

What do I need to think about relative to place, time, setup, invites, etc.?

How do I get conversation going if nobody is talking sometime?

What kinds of questions are good questions?

You could ask 3 questions each week and be a great leader!

- 1) What problem is the text addressing? How do you see this in the text?
- 2) What's is God's solution or response to the problem?
- 3) What should our response be?