



# **New Testament Survey**

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# Group Exercises: Leader Guide

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Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) New Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the New Testament survey through lectures and related study materials. On the days when you meet with the students who are participating in the course, you, as the students' leader, will encourage them to interact meaningfully with the content they have already taken in. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some ideas for activities and exercises that will challenge the students to engage and interact with the teaching.

These exercises and activities have been provided to us by Dr. Sid Buzzell, former Chairman of the Theology Department at Colorado Christian University. He used ODBU's course content in his teaching of both Old and New Testament survey to hundreds of college students each year. The suggestions he makes in this guide have already been tried in classrooms and proven to be successful teaching/learning tools. You now can benefit from his creative thinking and from his experience.

In addition to using Dr. Buzzell's materials, we want to encourage you to think of some exercises that will be unique to your personality and teaching style. Here are some general ideas of types of activities you might develop:

- 1. Provide additional information on the Bible book or topic you are discussing with your students. As you view the ODBU lessons the students are completing, you may think of additional information that you want to cover in your meetings using a short discussion. Feel free to add material as you desire, but keep in mind that you should allow time for students to interact with each other and, with your oversight and involvement, to engage with and apply the information they are learning.**
- 2. Discussion. Some topics lend themselves to open discussion on a particular topic led by the teacher. Often these discussions can be initiated by questions the students may have as they study the biblical text.**
- 3. Small-group discussion. You might break the group of students into smaller learning teams to discuss and/or debate on one of the topics or to share with one another their own exegesis and application of a passage or question.**
- 4. Case studies/problem-solving groups. You might give students a problem to solve or an example (fictional or actual) that will encourage discussion and application of the concepts taught in the lesson.**

Be creative and innovative. This kind of teaching is an opportunity to try new ideas, which will encourage students to be actively involved in learning. By the time they meet with the group, you know they have taken in the course material. In the group meetings, the real assimilation of the material begins, and there is almost no limit on ways in which that engagement with the text can occur. So enjoy this course as you use the activities in this guide and as you develop your own style of interacting with students that will encourage their lifelong study of the Bible.

# NT217 New Testament Basics: Things We Thought We Knew

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## 217:1 What Are We Going to Do with the New Testament?

### Discussion: Between the Testaments

Luke recorded an event that illustrates how the Intertestamental Period carried its influence in the New Testament.

This brief exegetical exercise will help you see how the events between Malachi and Matthew mattered.

Read the passages below and respond to the questions that follow.

*Acts 5:40-42: 40 They took his [Gamaliel's] advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. 41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

*Acts 6:1-7: 1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.*

Questions:

- 1. Acts 6:1 says, "at this time." To what time is the author referring?  
How did Luke describe the "time" in 5:40-42?  
How about in 6:1?**
- 2. What event did Luke describe in 6:1?  
What would you label this event? What kind of situation was it?  
What word did Luke use to describe it in verse 1?**
- 3. Who are the major players introduced in verse 1 of this story?  
From your study already, elaborate on the two sides of this conflict.**
- 4. Verse 2: Describe how the apostles suggested the church handle this situation.**

5. According to verse 5, how did their approach work?
6. What point did Luke want to make with his description of the church in verse 7? Relate verse 7 to the events of verses 1-6. What was Luke's point in this pericope?

## **217:2: What Life Looked Like in Jesus' Time**

### **Role Playing: Who Is Jesus?**

This exercise encourages participants to think about their theological awareness of Jesus:

1. Team up with one other person.
2. Decide which of you will be the "Christian" and which is the "non-believer."
3. The "non-believer" asks the "Christian": Who is this Jesus you want me to trust and follow?
4. The "Christian" explains to the "non-believer" what the Bible teaches about who Jesus is.

### **Study/Discussion: Legalism or Grace?**

In the ODBCUC Course Study Guide, read the short Philip Yancey presentation, "Mathematics of Legalism" and respond to the questions below.

1. What was Jesus' response to the desire people had for a list of rules?
2. What did He offer as the alternative to living by a set of rules?
3. Which way of life do you find more comfortable to live with? Why?
4. What's the danger of having what some might describe as "too many" rules in any Christian organization? What about too few rules?