



New Testament Survey

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Group Exercises: Leader Guide

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.

NT221 Luke–John: Jesus in Judea: Opposition and Rejection

221:1 Luke–John: Digging Deeper into Luke and John

Topics for Small-Group Discussions

Divide into two groups to discuss the following two topics. Then, bring both groups together and have one person from each group present a summary of their discussion.

Topic 1: Another look at Jesus' parables:

- a. What characterized the structure of Jesus' parables?
- b. Who do the three characters in most parables usually represent?
- c. How do we identify the central theme in each parable?

Topic 2: Urgency of Christ's call:

- a. Luke 9:59-62: What do Jesus' two famous commands illustrate?
- b. Luke 10:1-24: What does the number 70 (or 72) represent? What does it signify?

221:2 Jesus in Judea: Final Week

Discussion: The Difference Jesus Makes

Respond to the questions below.

Jesus said, "It is good for you that I am going away." That statement was (and is) difficult to make sense of.

1. What did Jesus mean by that statement?
2. Answer Philip Yancey's question: "How would the world have been different if Jesus had stayed on earth?"
3. In what tangible ways is your life different because you became a Christ follower? What significant difference has being a Christian made and is it making in your life day-to-day?