



# **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.

# NT223 Galatians–1 Corinthians: Paul’s Earliest Letters

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## 223:1 Galatians: An Introduction to Paul’s Epistles and a Survey of His Galatian Epistle

### Exercise: A Study of Paul’s Message to the Galatians

1. Read the following passage from Galatians 1:3-5 and list at least three facts you find there.

Galatians 1:3-5: *3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.*

Observation - List at least three facts you find in these verses.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Interpretation - What was Paul’s point in this paragraph?

Application - Why is this important? How does it matter to us?

2. Paul then stated the concern that led to his writing this letter.

Galatians 1:6-7: *6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

Observation - List at least three facts you find in these verses.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Interpretation - What was Paul's concern?

Why would anyone abandon the Gospel for another message?

### **3. Paul also explained to the Galatians why the Gospel wasn't working for them.**

*Gal 3:1-3: 1 You foolish Galatians...2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

Observation - List at least two facts you find in these verses.

- 1.
- 2.

Interpretation - What was the Galatians problem? Discuss it and agree on how to say it in one sentence.

Application - Why is this important? How does it matter to us?

#### 4. And then Paul also explained how the Gospel **COULD** work for them.

Galatians 5:16-17: *16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

5:19-21: *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, [he listed the deeds of the flesh] and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

5:22-23: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, [he listed the fruit of the Spirit] ... against such things there is no law.*

5:24-26: *Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

What did Paul say in 5:16-17 is the Christian's problem?

What did Paul "do" in verses 19-22?

How do you interpret what Paul offered in verses 24-26 as a solution to the problem?

#### **Discussion/Personal Contemplation: Have To's and Should Do's?**

In the ODBCUC Course Study Guide, read the short devotional presentation by Philip Yancey entitled "Moment of Crisis" and then, combining Blomberg's teaching and Yancey's thoughts on Paul's statements, summarize your own response as follows:

1. Respond to Phil Yancey's question about which poses the greater danger: To be obsessed by following the "right" rules or being careless about following anyone's "rules" but your own? Explain your answer.
2. On a day-to-day basis, do you sense a commitment to live your life to honor Christ or is your Christian life more of a list of "Have To's" and "Shouldn't Do's"? Whose approval matters most to you? Be honest!
3. How is being involved in Christian service working for you? What pressures do you feel to

do “good” and what pressures do you feel to do less than “good”? Who defines “good” for you personally? Write a paragraph in response and be prepared to discuss your thoughts with the group.

## **223:2 1 Thessalonians–1 Corinthians: Paul’s Doctrine of Last Things**

### **Discussion: Corinthian Topics**

Discuss (in small groups or entire group) one or more of the following topics dealt with in 1 Corinthians:

- Unity in the church
- Spiritual gifts
- Sanctity of the body
- Dealing with weaker brothers
- The Lord’s Supper
- Giving to the needy