



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.

NT225 Romans–Ephesians: The Letter to the Roman Church and Letters from a Roman Prison

225:2 Colossians and Philemon: Two Letters of Joy from an Imprisoned Apostle

Exegetical Discussion: Paul’s Hymn to Jesus

Ask students to complete and then discuss the following exercise.

For each statement below, write a one- or two-sentence explanation of what Paul is telling us about Jesus.

Colossians 1:15–20 (ESV)

Paul’s Statement	Your Explanation
15 He is the image of the invisible God	
the firstborn of all creation	
16 For by him all things were created	
in heaven and on earth visible and invisible whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—	
all things were created through him and for him.	
17 And he is before all things	
and in him all things hold together	
18 And he is the head of the body, the church.	
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead that in everything he might be preeminent.	
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell	
20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven making peace by the blood of his cross.	

Your Summary. In a brief paragraph, summarize what you understand Paul to be saying about Jesus Christ.

Your Application. What is your personal response to this Person Paul described here?