



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.

NT226 1 Timothy–Hebrews: Letters to Pastors and to a Church Struggling to Believe

226:1 1 Timothy–Titus: Three Letters to Two Pastors

Discussion: The Wonder of Inspiration

Second Timothy 3:16-17 makes two amazing claims for Scripture.

First: *16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Second: Verse 16 says Scripture is “inspired by God” or, literally, “God-breathed.” It says that God, in some mysterious way, while allowing writers to let their own personality guide the writing, also participated in guiding what they wrote.

Questions for discussion:

1. Describe how you think inspiration would have worked. Is Scripture a human message or is it God’s message? How much of man was involved in creating what we read today when we read the Bible, and how much of God was involved?
2. In verses 16 and 17, Paul said that this God-breathed Word is profitable for four things. For each word below, define it as you understand it, and explain how the Bible, in the sense that word describes it, is valuable.
 - a. Teaching
 - b. Rebuking
 - c. Correcting
 - d. Training in Righteousness
3. Describe one instance in your life where a teaching from Scripture made a difference in some specific way in how you think or act.

Written Exercise: Pastors

Timothy and Titus were officially pastors. That was their calling in life.

Write the first three words that come to mind when you hear the word *pastor*.

- a.
- b.
- c.

List two ideas or concepts you would expect to find in these letters addressed to pastors.

- a.
- b.

What would you write to a pastor today that you think every pastor should know?

Pastor Timothy: A Case Study (for group discussion)

Timothy's younger years: List facts you see about Timothy's childhood in each of the following passages:

Acts 16:1-3: 1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek,

2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

2 Timothy 3:14-15: 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:5-6: 5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Timothy as an adult pastor: List facts you find about Timothy as an adult pastor in each of the following passages. Remember: Paul wrote what he did because he was addressing some things he knew about Timothy. We can "listen in" on both ends of the conversation. What do Paul's statements tell us about Timothy?

1 Timothy 4:12: Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

2 Timothy 1:8: Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

2 Timothy 1:12: For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

2 Timothy 2:15-16: 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness.

2 Timothy 4:1-2: 1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge

the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2 Timothy 1:6-7: 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Summarize in one sentence what Paul was saying to Timothy as an adult pastor.

What connections do you see between Paul's encouragements to Timothy and Timothy's childhood?

What specific strengths or weaknesses do you see that may have come from his childhood and youth?

What about you? How do you connect current strengths and struggles with your previous experiences?

What are you doing in this time of your life that will contribute to or hinder your performance in the future? If you were doing this exercise 10 years from now what would you say about "now"?

226:2 Hebrews: The Struggle to Believe in Jesus

Exegetical Discussion: Three Dangers

Hebrews 2:1 (NASB): For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

Hebrews 3:12: Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Hebrews 5:11: Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

The three passages above name dangers the early Christians were struggling with. Work in groups of three or four. For each passage,

1. Name the danger.
2. Discuss any experience you have had with that danger—either personally or those you have learned of in conversations with other Christians.
3. The writer of Hebrews warns those who may not be true believers in Jesus Christ. Are there triggers in your life that stir doubts about the reality of your relationship with Him? If so, how do you deal with those doubts? If not, why, when most Christians have such moments, do you think that you do not?