



Old Testament Survey

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Group Exercises: Leader Guide

Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) Old Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the Old Testament survey through online 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 the ODBU courses 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. Exegetical Exercises. The importance of teaching students to exegete the biblical text cannot be overstated. While there is an enormous amount of material to be covered in a survey course, we cannot neglect Bible study skills. Periodically modeling the exegesis of a Bible passage in your meetings will contribute to their ability to read the Bible well.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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.**
- 5. 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 and have tested their level of understanding by taking a quiz. 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.

OT217 Numbers - Joshua: The Tragedy of Fear and the Glory of Faith

217.1 Numbers

Discussion: An Arm Too Short

Ask participants to read Numbers 11:18-23 and view Philip Yancey's video (found in Lesson 2), "**An Arm Too Short (Numbers 11:23).**"

Meditate for a few minutes on the statement Numbers 11:23 makes.

The Lord answered Moses, "Is the Lord's arm too short? You will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

Israel failed to enter their land because they didn't believe God could deliver on His promise to give the land to them. The result was a life of grumbling, anger, disappointment, frustration and misery. The New Testament book of Hebrews summed it up as a life without rest or inner peace.

1. How do you respond when life doesn't go as you planned – when life gets lousy?
2. How about when life is good?
3. How does the condition of your life influence your view of God? Of His love? Of your relationship with Him?
4. What can we learn from Israel's wilderness experience that could help us process life's difficulties more effectively?

217.3 Joshua/Deuteronomy

Discussion: Never Forget

Ask participants to read Deuteronomy 47-48.

The Bible is full of stories about people and their relationship with God. The stories are there to teach us lessons about how we should live. But a crucial story many of us fail to "read" is our own story.

1. Read Deuteronomy 4:9 again a couple of times and let its message form in your mind. Now in a sentence or two, state the lesson we should take away from this verse.
2. Take 10 – 15 minutes (really) and think about your past life. Then describe a high point in your Christian walk. It may be when you became a Christian, or when you were baptized or dedicated your life to serve Him as your Lord, or a ministry moment. Prepare this story to share with a group. What happened? Why? What did it do for or to you?
3. It would be profitable to schedule time quarterly on our calendars to reflect and praise God for his blessings over the past months, to summarize lessons we learned, and formulate a few principles for life that will guide us in our future.

Exercise: Joshua's Road to Success

God prepared Joshua to lead Israel into the land He promised to give them. But that preparation involved two parts. The table below explains the two parts to Joshua's commission. List the actions recorded in each of the verses on the table and then fill in the blanks in the second row. Finish by discussing how the passage, though directed to Joshua, and dealing with a specific event, can apply to your own walk with God.

Joshua 1:1-5	Joshua 1:6-9
_____ Role in Joshua's Success	_____ Role in Joshua's Success
My personal application of Joshua 1:1-9	